

STRUCTURE CHART (adapted from Clarke & Dawson)

Rigidity	Criticism	Non-Negotiable Rules	Negotiable Rules	Marshmallow	Abandonment
<p>The rule is more important than the child and is enforced without regard to the child's needs or their developmental stage.</p> <p>Supposedly for the child's welfare, but springs from fear.</p> <p>Rigidity threatens abuse or withdrawal of love to enforce compliance; it doesn't believe children should have a say in working things out.</p>	<p>May be more flexible than rigidity but tends to involve ridicule and name-calling.</p> <p>Labels the person with bad names rather than setting standards for acceptable behaviour.</p> <p>Global words – “never”, “always”.</p> <p>It negates children and tells them how to fail. Ridicule – leading to humiliation.</p>	<p>Rules give children a sense of order, security, help them to know who they are, guide them in making decisions and help build self-esteem.</p> <p>Non-negotiable rules relate to the child's welfare and must be followed. They aren't rigid though and can be rewritten where appropriate.</p> <p>Whilst they are non-negotiable, they don't teach the child how to think.</p>	<p>These teach children how to think clearly and to solve problems. This in turn helps raise their self-esteem.</p> <p>The process of negotiation gives children the opportunity to argue and hassle with adults, learn about the relevance of rules, assess data on which to base decisions, and learn to be increasingly responsible for themselves.</p> <p>Negotiable rules start small and expand as the child develops.</p>	<p>Either patronizes or gives in to the demands of the child. Grants freedoms without demanding responsibility in return.</p> <p>It sounds supportive, but it implies the child does not have to or is not capable of following rules. It discounts the child's ability and gives the child permission to be irresponsible and to fail, to be helpless and hopeless.</p> <p>At the same time, it lets the adult look good or play the martyr or feel in control.</p>	<p>Consists of lack of rules, protection and contact. It tells children that adults are not available for them. If teasing is used when a child needs structure or approval, that teasing constitutes abandonment.</p>

Decisions a child/young person is likely to make in response to the different structure styles

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<p><i>In this classroom:</i></p> <p>Rules are more important than my needs. I am not wanted. People don't care for me. I will let others think for me. I will comply, rebel, or withdraw. I will blame myself.</p>	<p><i>In this classroom:</i></p> <p>I'm supposed to know what I don't know. I won't ask for help. I will try harder, be strong, be perfect. If I don't do things right, I am a bad person. I can't be good enough. I am hopeless. Why bother?</p>	<p><i>In this classroom:</i></p> <p>There are some rules I have to follow. These rules are ways in which the adults show that they care for me and others.</p> <p>I can learn from my mistakes. Indeed behavioural mistakes are learning opportunities.*</p> <p>When I break any of these rules, I don't fear chastisement, rejection or humiliation.</p> <p>I am a good person. I'm lovable and capable. Adults care about me and take care of me.</p> <p>* "behavioural mistakes are learning opportunities" is a phrase developed by Rob Long</p>	<p><i>In this classroom:</i></p> <p>There are also rules that can be negotiated. I have a voice in this and can think situations through and explore with the adult and my peers what is most appropriate.</p> <p>It's okay for me to grow up and still be dependent at times. I can think things through and ask others to think with me. I continually expand my ability to be responsible and competent.</p>	<p><i>In this classroom:</i></p> <p>I must take care of other people's feelings and needs, OR I don't need to care about anyone but me.</p> <p>I am not capable of learning how to value and take care of myself. If help is offered, I mistrust it or at least expect to pay a price for it.</p>	<p><i>In this classroom:</i></p> <p>Don't ask for or expect help. No one cares. If I am to survive, I will have to do it by myself. If help is offered, mistrust it. Help and trust are jokes.</p>

