

Framework: 4 Phases of Parenting

COMMAND PHASE: (18 Months-Early Elementary)

Children learn to obey, follow directions, follow rules, and complete tasks. Parents make the decisions; reinforcing, and following through.

■ **Give clear instruction.**

COACHING PHASE: (Older Elementary-Early College)

Children beginning to learn how to make decisions with parents guidance and input. Parents give more and more responsibility to the child, teach to how make good decisions, teach cause/effect, and continue to be involved with daily life.

■ **Ask good questions.**

CONSULTING PHASE: (Later College-Young Adult)

Students learn to manage their own time and make more and more of their own decisions—however, they are still accountable to parents. Parents ask how they can help, offer to listen, think through options, yet let students self-manage.

■ **Give good advice.**

CHEERLEADING PHASE: (Adult Children)

Parent get to watch, cheer, and encourage—offering advice ONLY when asked.

■ **Give tons of encouragement.**