

Differences between Punishment and Logical Consequences

Punishment

Logical Consequences

Characteristics	Underlying message to child	Likely results	Characteristics	Underlying message to child	Likely results
1. Emphasis on power of personal authority.	"Do what I say because I said so."	Rebellion; Desire for revenge; Lack of self discipline; Sneakiness; Irresponsibility.	1. Emphasis on reality of social order.	"I trust you to learn to respect the rights of others."	Cooperation; Respect for self and others; Self-discipline; Reliability.
2. Rarely related to the act; arbitrary	"I'll show you." "You deserve what you're getting!"	Resentment; Desire for revenge; Fear; Confusion; Rebellion.	2. Logically related to the misbehaviour; sensible.	"I trust you to make responsible choices."	Learning from experience.
3. Implies moral judgment.	"You're bad!" "You're not acceptable!"	Feelings of hurt and guilt; Desire to get even.	3. Treats person with dignity; separates deed from the doer.	"You are a worthwhile person."	Senses he or she is acceptable even though the behaviour is not.
4. Emphasis is on past behaviour.	"You'll never learn." "I can never count on you."	Feels unacceptable; Feel as though unable to make good decisions.	4. Concerned with present and future behaviour.	"You are able to take care of yourself."	Becomes self-evaluating and self-directing.
5. Threats of disrespect, violence, or loss of love (either open or concealed).	"You'd better shape up!" "No child of mine would ever do a thing like that!"	Fear; Rebellion; Feelings of guilt; Desire to get revenge / get back.	5. Voice communicates respect and good will.	"I don't like what you're doing, but I still love you."	Feels secure about parent's love and support.
6. Demands compliance.	"You're preferences don't matter." "You can't be trusted to make wise decisions."	Rebellion; Defiant-compliance.	6. Presents child with choice.	"You are capable of deciding."	Responsible decisions; Increased resourcefulness.