

Parenting Judgement Indicator (PJI) Profile Report

Name: Chris Smith

Date: April 2016

INTRODUCTION

This report is confidential and is intended for your personal use. It has been given to you to provide some feedback about how you responded to the Parenting Judgement Indicator (PJI). The PJI invited you to rate the appropriateness of four approaches when dealing with children in different situations. This feedback compares your responses with other parents who have completed the PJI.

When you read this report it is important to understand that it is based on the answers you gave to 17 varied scenarios. When reading this report's description of your approach to parenting, it is important to remember that it is based on the answers you gave. It is, therefore, a way of presenting back to you your own views about appropriate behaviour, rather than how your parenting might be described by another person. It is possible that you might see yourself as behaving differently in the real world. This report can nevertheless give important clues to understanding the way you see your style of parenting and it is likely to give you pointers about your approach to parenting which might help you in the future.

This report gives you feedback about two main things. The first is the extent to which each of the four approaches to decision making with children appealed to you. This is your 'Preference' for the style. The second tells you whether you used the approach in situations where it is most effective. This is your 'Judgement' in the use of the style. Your feedback is given using this scale:

PREFERENCE DESCRIPTION	JUDGEMENT DESCRIPTION
Very high	Role model
High	Noticeable strength
Above average	Strength
High average	Easily on a par with others
Average	On a par with others
Low or broadly average	Just on a par with others
Below average	Development area
Low	Clear development area
Very low	Very clear development area

The Preference description tells you whether you chose the style more or less than other parents. This information might help you decide whether to increase or lessen this approach. The Judgement description shows whether you were able to fit the style to suit the situation. If this is an area of strength, you should consider how you can make the most of it; if the style is a development area, then you might want to consider how to change this. You can start by asking other people in your family.

To help your thinking, the report is divided into two main parts. The next page gives your actual profile, showing how you compare with other parents. Pages 3 and 4 describe the styles in more detail. These general descriptions will help you understand more about each of the styles, how to use them and what impact they tend to have.

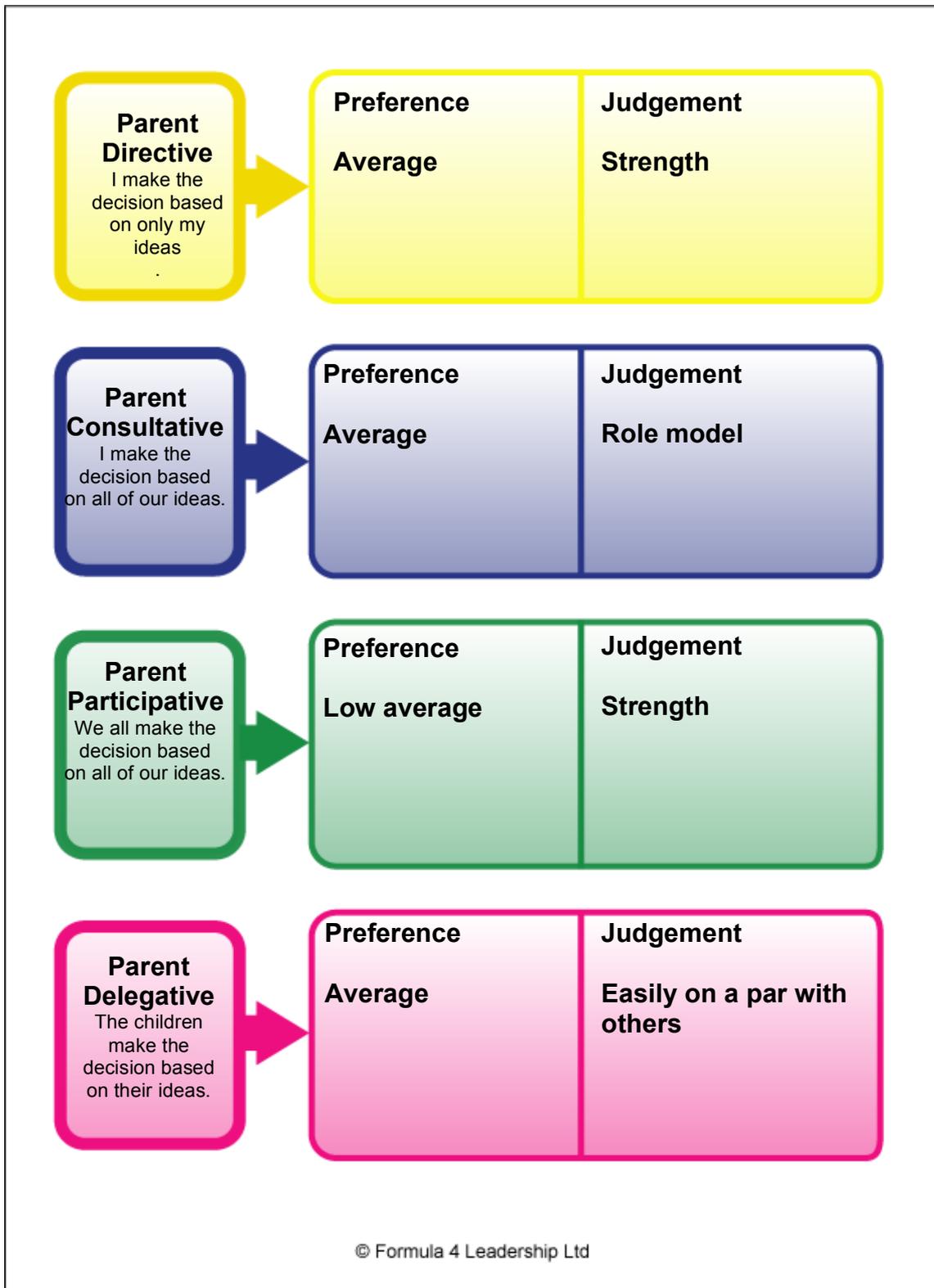
If you have any queries about any aspect of the report, want a more detailed analysis of what the results mean for you or want to consider your own personal development opportunities, please go to our website <http://www.formula4parenting.com> where you will find access to a range of services, links and products which may be of help, including our Parenting Navigator.

Parenting Judgement Indicator (PJI) Profile Chart

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PREFERENCE shows the extent to which you are drawn to the style compared with other parents. JUDGEMENT shows how well you choose the style to suit the situation.



EXPANDED DESCRIPTION OF THE FOUR STYLES

Parent Directive

Parent Directive is where a solution is created that is based solely upon your own ideas. This approach should not be used if you do not have all the information necessary to make a good decision. It is also never to be used if you believe it is important to use the situation to help the children learn something important.

This is a very parent-centred approach for it does not involve exploring the matter with the children at all. This lack of child involvement can supply quick answers, and it does ensure that nobody's time is wasted on unnecessary chat. However, you need to be cautious about this approach if the solution requires commitment from the children and there is no guarantee that they will willingly follow your decision. What is more, if used too often this approach can come over as overbearing. It could make the children far too submissive for their own good.

Too much of this type of decision-making can lead to a family where the children have low self-esteem. Poor quality solutions to family problems may result because the parent does not consider all of the issues. Therefore, the children never truly mature to their potential. On the other hand, if the parent needs to act in a directive manner but chooses not to, it can lead to feelings of insecurity and cause a lack of confidence in the child. Further, if the parent does not act in a directive way this may lead to feelings of confusion and a belief by the child that they are being let down by the responsible adult. In fact, if the parent shrinks away from directive decision-making it may frustrate the children and they could become troublesome.

Parent Consultative

This option involves gathering children's ideas and opinions before you make the decision. The emphasis is on you making the decision, informed by the child's viewpoint.

This approach works well when the situation is quite complex or where the views of individual children should be taken into account. However, do not be drawn into overusing this technique. For example, it can result in reduced respect for the parent as it may appear that you ask for opinions, but always make the decision yourself. Also, make sure that the children's hopes of making the decision are not raised inappropriately. Their ideas will be welcomed and valued, but this approach is based on the fact that the parent makes the final decision.

If you do not grasp opportunities of this type, it can seem that you do not value the opinion of the children. Failing to ask children's opinions at appropriate times can drive their morale down. They may not come to feel important in their own right. Further, they might not really understand why the decision has been made the way it has. The parent could also be accused of not recognising the often surprising wisdom and potential of children.

Therefore, do make sure that you tell the children from the start that you are going to adopt a Consultative type approach. Then, after you have made your decision, explain the logic of your thinking and how their viewpoints were valued, balanced and used. Then they can grow in understanding about the reasonable use of parental power and control.

Parent Participative

This type of decision-making is the most democratic of all for it seeks to find solutions that are acceptable to everyone, both adults and children. Each person helps search for a solution. It is important to understand that you are not gathering their thoughts so that you can make the decision off your own back. Your task is to lead the discussion to the point where everyone feels reasonably comfortable with the outcome and are prepared to accept it.

A benefit of this approach is that it creates many ideas and allows the wisdom of the children to be shared. Usually, as ideas are presented, and built on by others, a solution is arrived at that is more

powerful than any that could have been produced by any one person on their own. A further great benefit is that everybody present then feels real commitment to the outcome. This is especially valuable given the importance of this decision to you.

However, do not use this approach for all situations. If you use this technique too much you will waste a lot of valuable time. There is also the risk that you could be seen as someone who is unable to make a decision off your own back. On the other hand, if you fail to grasp opportunities like this it may result in poorer quality solutions. The children might then never develop a feeling of responsibility and may come to think that you do not truly value their opinions and that in talking with them you are simply paying lip service to what they have to say.

Parent Delegative

Delegative decision-making involves giving children the freedom to generate their own solutions. You then totally back whatever decision they come to.

It is recommended that you explain to the children why you have chosen this approach. It is important that they understand that you only use this approach in those situations that call for it. If you were to use the Delegative approach inappropriately and too frequently, it could lead to some loss of parental control. Children can even lose heart if they think grown-ups just get them to sort all problems out without getting involved themselves. Further, this approach can put some children under stress if they are given responsibilities that they are not ready for. Poorer quality family decision making will result.

However, if you do not allow children to deal with matters within their own competence, you could undermine their feelings of being valued. They need opportunities like this to develop and grow as people. The advantage for the family is that they also develop commitment and responsibility. Therefore, do 'let go' when appropriate, and give the children the freedom necessary to show what they can do. You will be amazed at the benefits for family life.

Make sure the children are clear about the task and their responsibilities. Explain your trust in them to do what is best. Tell them that you believe in their potential to come up with a solution that will resolve the situation. Agree a time for completion and accept their eventual offering with delight and great satisfaction when it is produced. Ignore your temptation to change it! Watch the children grow in confidence and maturity as a result.

ABOUT THIS REPORT

This report has been produced by Formula 4 Parenting (F4P) for your benefit and is intended to give you an indication of your approach to parenting, based upon the way in which you completed the PJI. This report was generated automatically from the responses you gave to the PJI. The report shows how you used the rating scale when asked about the appropriateness of the four styles. Whilst the report tries to reflect the answers you gave, you must bear in mind that this was just your subjective view at one moment in time. When deciding upon how to act on the findings in this report, you must base your decision on all other information you possess.

In completing the PJI, you were faced with a number of scenarios concerning children aged 9-11. As it compares your responses with the Principles which underpin our parenting model, and the way in which other parents have responded, it should provide you with information which you will find valuable about your approach to parenting generally. However, it is only accurate insofar as it gives an indication of the way in which you might behave in the "real world". Consequently, it is unlikely to give a good description of your approach to dealing with children for more than about 18-24 months – or less time if you deliberately change aspects of your behaviour.

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