

Table 4.1 Summary: Collectivistic and Individualistic Parenting Orientations

	Collectivistic Orientation	Individualistic Orientation
Authority Role	Ascribed Hierarchical	Achieved Egalitarian
Relationships	Cooperative	Competitive
Communication	Indirect More emphasis on nonverbal (facial & body language) Dependent on context	Direct More emphasis on verbal Verbal (face-to-face) Independent of context
Displays of Emotion	Outward (facial & body) or inward (personal distance)	Open with all others or just with intimate others
Discipline/ Guidance	Obedience Imitation Sense of obligation	Learn by doing Instruction and reasoning Sense of independence
Skills Emphasis	Sharing Helping Interaction with people Group loyalty	Decision making Individual achievement Self-expression Personal choice and responsibility

Table 4.1 summarizes the differences between collective and individualistic parenting orientations.

4-5 > Chronosystem Influences on Parenting

Parenting today raises new questions that previous generations seldom had to face. Should we have children? How many and how far apart? Terminate the unexpected or the imperfect child? Should we be strict or permissive? Should we stress competitiveness or cooperation? What activities should be encouraged? Because society is changing so rapidly and because of new advances in science and technology, parents cannot look to experience for answers as their parents could.

Several social scientists (Bronfenbrenner, 1989; Garbarino, Bradshaw, & Kostelny, 2005; Hewlett & West, 1998) are concerned that a number of developments—many beneficent in themselves—have conspired to isolate the family and to drastically reduce the number of relatives, neighbors, and other caring adults who share in the socialization of American children. Among the most significant forces are occupational mobility, the breakdown of neighborhoods, the separation of residential from business areas, consolidated school districts, separate patterns of social life for different age groups, and the delegation of child care to outside institutions. What today's parents lack is a support system.

Because of the nature of today's rapidly changing society, parents spend less time with their children. A majority of mothers hold jobs outside the home. Fathers often must travel in connection with their work and are away for days or even weeks at a time. Parents may have meetings to attend in the evenings and social engagements on the weekends. Various studies have found that lack of time together is perceived as the greatest threat to the family (Hochschild, 2001; Leach, 1994; Jacobs & Gerson, 2004). Given the changing nature of society and its pressures on the family's ability to function optimally, parenting today has become a "journey without a road map."

4-5a Historical Trends

A historical perspective on the treatment of children and

How has parenting changed over time?

How have children been treated throughout history?