

◇ Chapter 31  
The Parenting Question



IMAGES OF CHILD REARING

Attitudes about child rearing come from many different sources — family and friends, television, movies, and advertisements, to name a few. Those attitudes presented in the media, however, may not be very realistic.

**Directions:** Choose six current television shows, movies, books, or advertisements that show images of child rearing. Try to include at least one example from each of these groups. Write down the details of the images presented — the children’s ages and personalities, the family situations, the problems and solutions connected with raising children, the resources of the parents or guardians. Use this information to answer the questions that follow.

Analyzing the Images

- 1. In general, do you think the children’s personalities were appropriate for their ages? Explain.

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- 2. In general, how realistic were the family situations presented? Did their problems or lifestyles resemble your own or those of families you know?

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- 3. Did the problems shown seem serious or trivial to you? Give two examples.

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4. Were the families' responses to their problems appropriate? Explain.

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5. Of the parents' or guardians' resources shown, which do you think are available to most adults in real life?

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6. Do you find that media messages generally encourage or discourage having children? Explain.

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7. Based on what you have seen, identify two ways in which media images of child rearing can be a positive influence on parenting.

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8. Identify two ways in which media images can be damaging to parenting.

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