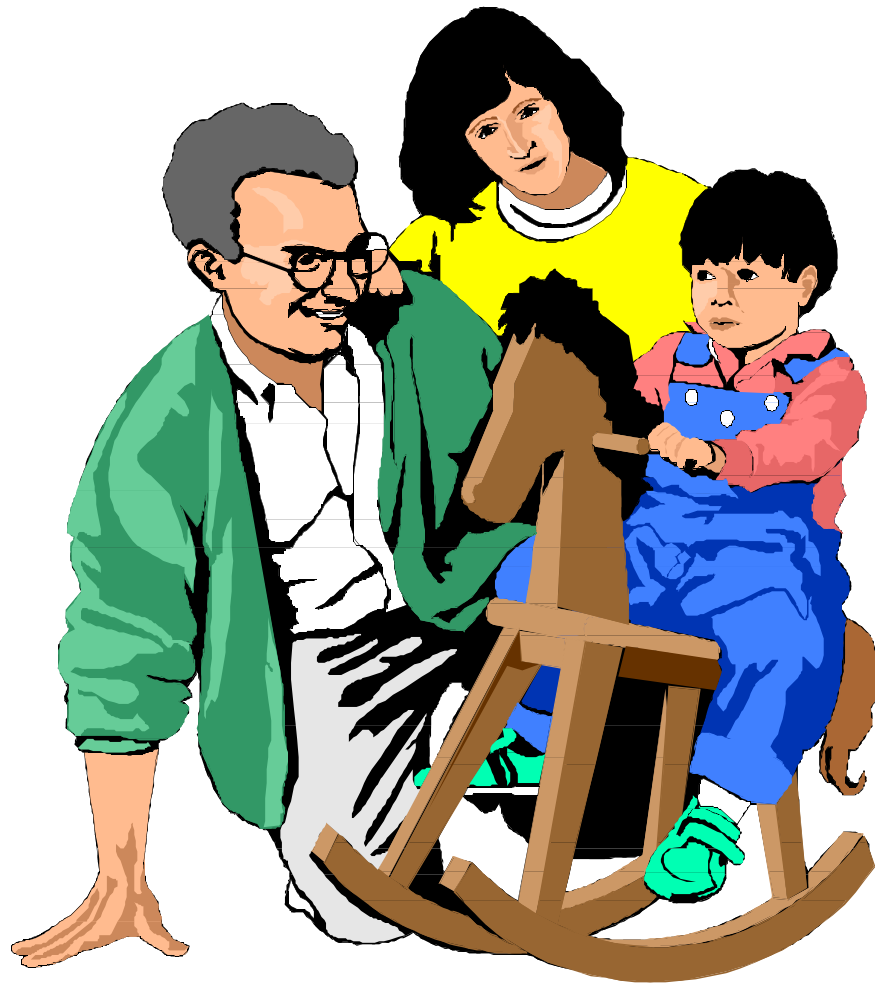


# Study Questions for Glenn Latham's *The Power of Positive Parenting*



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**Stephen F. Ledoux**  
*Foreword* by Glenn I. Latham  
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**Stephen F. Ledoux**

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# Contents

*Foreword* by Glenn I. Latham ... v

**To the Student and Teacher ... vii**

About the Book ... vii

About the Study Questions ... viii

About the Book / Study Questions Combination ... ix

About Using the Study Questions ... ix

About the Appendices ... x

About the Other Extras ... x

About Ordering *The Power of Positive Parenting* ... xi

About the Study Questions Author ... xi

**Study Questions for the Foreword, Note, and Ch. 1:**  
*The Changing Family and How to Change for the Better* ... 1

**Study Questions for Ch. 2: *How Behavior Develops:***  
*Some Important Principles* ... 9

**Study Questions for Ch. 3: *Applying Behavioral Principles***  
*in the Home and Family* ... 19

**Study Questions for Ch. 4: *On Being in Control*** ... 41

**Study Questions for Ch. 5: *A Word About Consequences*** ... 51

**Study Questions for Ch. 6: *Using Time to Your Advantage*** ... 60

**Study Questions for Ch. 7: *Proactive Responding to***  
*Reactive Adolescent Behavior* ... 70

**Study Questions for Ch. 8: *Questioning Children About Their Behavior*** ... 76

**Study Questions for Ch. 9: *Dealing with Hate and Anger*** ... 78

**Study Questions for Ch. 10: *Building Self Esteem*** ... 81

**Study Questions for Ch. 11: *A Word About Fussy Babies*** ... 86

Study Questions for Ch. 12: <i>Regarding Spanking: Don't</i> ...	93
Study Questions for Ch. 13: <i>Using Time-Out</i> ...	97
Study Questions for Ch. 14: <i>Eliminating Tantrums</i> ...	105
Study Questions for Ch. 15: <i>Eliminating Tattling</i> ...	110
Study Questions for Ch. 16: <i>Eliminating Lying and Stealing</i> ...	111
Study Questions for Ch. 17: <i>Eliminating Thumb Sucking</i> ...	115
Study Questions for Ch. 18: <i>Toilet Training</i> ...	121
Study Questions for Ch. 19: <i>Refusing to Do as Told</i> ...	129
Study Questions for Ch. 20: <i>Sibling Rivalry</i> ...	133
Study Questions for Ch. 21: <i>Living with Teenagers: A Better Way</i> ...	139
Study Questions for Ch. 22: <i>Managing Television Viewing</i> ...	149
Study Questions for Ch. 23: <i>Helping Children Achieve in School</i> ...	153
Study Questions for Ch. 24: <i>Dealing with Substance Abuse</i> ...	167
Study Questions for Ch. 25: <i>When All Else Fails</i> ...	175
Study Questions for Ch. 26: <i>For Husbands and Wives / Moms and Dads</i> ...	179
Study Questions for Ch. 27: <i>Positive Parenting: Summary and Review</i> ...	182
Addendum: <i>Seven Steps to Better Behavior</i> by Glenn I. Latham ...	203
Appendix I: <i>China Through the Eyes of a Behaviorologist</i> by Glenn I. Latham ...	205
Appendix II: Partially Annotated References for Further Reading ...	211
Proof of Ownership ...	213
ABCs Advertisement ...	215✿

# Foreword

*Glenn I. Latham*

Parents tend to manage their children's behavior in ways they hope will be both effective and expedient. Unfortunately, though their intentions are almost always good, parents also tend to manage behavior in negative, coercive ways. And why not? That's how most of them were parented!

In the book, *The Power of Positive Parenting*, I discuss non-coercive positive parenting skills. All of these skills have been shown through scientific study to be effective. These skills enable parents to:

1. have frequent positive interactions with their children;
2. clearly establish and communicate their expectations;
3. clearly establish the consequences for compliance and noncompliance;
4. ignore behaviors that do not threaten the basic quality of life, limb, and property (which includes *most* unacceptable behaviors);
5. attend to inappropriate behavior in an unemotional, precise, and directive way;
6. not question noncompliant children about their behavior, nor ask them to explain their inappropriate behavior;
7. use the inappropriate behavior of one child as a cue to attend to the appropriate behavior of other children;
8. smile and laugh, talk and touch—a lot; and
9. assess behavior analytically, and treat it clinically.

Parents must learn that after 60+ years of careful, disciplined, and thorough inquiry, much has been learned about human behavior: how to “shape” it, encourage it, and “fix” it.

The essence of this research has revealed, perhaps above all else, that behavior ultimately responds much, much better to positive than to negative consequences. True, aversive, negative consequences can and often do immediately produce the results parents want. But these results are almost always short term and, eventually, counterproductive. As noted by Dr. Murry Sidman, in his wonderfully insightful book, *Coercion and Its Fallout*, coercion ultimately finds children escaping (getting away), avoiding (staying away), and countercoercing (getting even). On the other hand, as observed by Dr. Sidney Bijou, “Research has shown that the most effective way to reduce problem behavior in children is to strengthen desir-

able behavior through positive reinforcement rather than trying to weaken undesirable behavior using aversive or negative processes" (*The International Encyclopedia of Education*, 1988).

In a word, what I want parents to understand is that short term compliance achieved using coercive means does not lead to long term gains. Coercion produces only short term compliance followed by long term losses. The skills taught in *The Power of Positive Parenting* use non-coercive positive methods to achieve both short and long term compliance and gains.

This book of study questions, when used as designed, will greatly help readers of *The Power of Positive Parenting* to better learn those skills. It will help them operate in a better way, a way based in solid behaviorological science, a way that leads to coordinated short and long term gains. Do put these books to work, both for yourself and for your children.☺

***Glenn Latham***

Utah State University  
2000 December 21

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