



# Parental Roles

When biological parents are not able to take on the traditional responsibilities of parenting, there are a number of roles they can assume that match their abilities, and allow them to maintain a positive connection with their children. Biological parents do not have to stay in one role instead they can change roles as their capabilities dictate. The higher the number for the role, the higher the level of responsibility, involvement, and /or contact.



## Supervisor

Responsible for the emotional and physical welfare of child by making appropriate decisions and providing adequate attention, limits, and boundaries.

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## Contact Person

Maintains contact with the child in order to provide a parental connection -- ie phone calls, email, letters, and photos.

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## Disciplinarian

Involved in deciding limits, structure and consequences for the child's behavior. Teaches values, morals, expectations, responsibilities and appropriate behaviors.

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## Provider/Protector

Responsible for the total care and well-being of their child by providing or accessing food, shelter, protection, medical, educational and spiritual resources necessary to parent a child.

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## Supportive Friend

Provides positive and supportive feedback to the child around activities and event's in the child's life.

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## Advisor/Problem Solver

Provides advice, recommendations, opinions and alternatives the child might use in solving problems or making decisions and choices.

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## Brainstorming Confidante

Listens to the child's situations or problems, and directs them to sources of information, advice, solutions and answers.

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