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Critique #4  
The Fine Art of Letting Go  
Developmental Psychology

I remember when my parents dropped me off at Southern. It was my freshman year and I was heading to my first class during the Smart Start program. I was excited to finally be in college and on my own but my mother wasn't as enthusiastic. She unpacked my stuff for me and made my room just the way she thought it should be. She was in tears an hour before I was going to say bye to her. I was the first child to leave home and go to college so my mom was having a hard time with that. My dad said she cried for a good hour or two on the way home to Indiana. Parents these days seem to have a really hard time with letting their children leave home and be independent. With the technology we have today parents are always in constant contact with their kids and that can be harmful to a child's growth.

Parents, more than ever, are spending more time with their children and pushing them to succeed. This article stated that "more students than ever are entering college, and rates of teen pregnancy, crime and drug abuse are all down." To me this is very impressive and it shows that parents are doing a good job at helping their children succeed but a lot of these kids feel like their parents are in it for the wrong reasons. Most of the upper class parents send their children to elite private schools. Some of these schools charge up to \$40,000 a year and some parents have a hard time providing the money. They have to take out loans and when this happens they want a return on their investment. Once this mentality is in place it is hard to see their child as anything but a financial investment. When the kid does poorly the parents get upset and that can be hard on the relationship. When do parents need to stand back and stop hovering over their children and let them grow as a young adult?

Instead of constantly calling and checking into their kid's grades they need to let the children come to them with that information. "We have parents calling us to ask why little Johnny wasn't accepted to interview at Goldman. They're demanding passwords so they can get into the student's account. It's just bizarre." Stuff like this can really strain a child's relationship with their parents. It shows that they aren't trusted and their parents are going behind their backs.

Parent at this age have a hard time comparing their children in college to themselves at that age. Some parents were really smart and had a direction in life when they entered college. Parents get nervous and anxious when their kids don't know what they want to do as a career. Instead of comparing and worrying they need to be helping in a constructive way. Show their kids that they want to help but give them the space that they need.

The conclusion to this is parents need to learn to let go of their children at an earlier age than what they are currently doing. Without this time and room to grow on their own a kid will not be prepared to enter the real world and be able to take care of themselves. Once a parent learns how to do this their life and the life of their kids will be so much easier.