

Box 57◆ **Weaknesses**

- **Emotionally withdrawn or cold** – negative emotional tone
- **Not supportive or reassuring** – absorbed in own life and issues, helps little with homework; ignores child's school activities
- **Communicates poorly** – age-inappropriate language, makes incorrect assumptions about child's emotional state
- **Inadequate monitoring, unsafe environment**
- **Ineffective discipline**
 - **Coercive**
 - **Harsh, punitive, rigid, and intrusive**
 - **Physical controls** – slaps, hits, or threatens to beat; few explanations
 - **Permissive or neglectful**
 - **Sets few limits**
 - **Inconsistent**
- **Disrespectful towards children** – bullies, humiliates, criticizes in front of friends
- **Age-inappropriate expectations** – too lax or unrealistically critical
- **Emotionally unhealthy**
 - **Displays intense negative emotions in front of child**
 - **Exposes child to parental conflict**
 - **Boundary confusion** – emotionally dependent on child, puts own needs before those of child, insists child share parent's feelings, general role reversal
 - **Disorganized and unpredictable, impatient**
- **Sabotages other parent's relationship with child**