In examining the parental axis, there are different combinations of responsiveness on one hand and demandingness on the other. In each combination there are family issues that are stressed in the child’s life. The aspects between the rulers give some further clues as to how these issues are resolved (soft aspects), are in conflict (hard aspects), or are in abeyance (no aspect until one appears by progression or transit). Signs, House placements and decanates of rulers give additional information. Next we look at combinations of signs on the parenting axis for their individual themes. The signs and House placements of the rulers add subtle variations to the themes.

ARIES/LIBRA

There are issues around identity, independence versus dependence, assertion versus accommodation. Anger and placating behavior may dominate parenting.

1. Aries 4th House: Security is built around the idea of freedom to be oneself. The child is encouraged to explore and act independently. There is activity and energy in the home but there is also tension in the form of impatience and restlessness. There may be a lack of tenderness. Changes in residence in the early years may occur. The child may be viewed as a challenge.
2. Libra 4th House: Security is built around peace and harmony. There is affection and tenderness in an environment of beauty and balance that stresses pleasing relationships.
3. Aries 10th House: Achievement and discipline center around expectations of independence, leadership and competitiveness. Discipline may be interfering, martial and dominating in resolving conflicts, expressing anger with caustic remarks.
4. Libra 10th House: Discipline centers around fairness and cooperation. The child is expected to be polite, tasteful, and able to see both sides of an argument. Good taste and appreciation of the arts are stressed. Parent acts as a “judge” of behavior and uses negotiation to resolve conflicts.

TAURUS/SCORPIO

Issues involve control and power, self-indulgence versus self-control, sensuality, sexuality, and materialism.

1. Taurus 4th House: Security centers around affection expressed in a tactile, sensual way. Beauty of possessions along with comfort are stressed in the environment. Nurturing is patient, reliable and kind. The child may be viewed as a possession.
2. Scorpio 4th House: Nurturing is tinged with strong emotions that can feel overwhelming to the child. Security becomes centered around defense against the passion to control. Tension in the home arises from a mysterious sense of fear of the unknown.
3. Taurus 10th House: Achievement and discipline center around the drive to succeed. The child is expected to be honest, reliable and hard-working. Discipline may be based on monetary rewards for success and removal of same for failure. Rules are stable and consistent rather than flexible and are presented in a patient, determined manner.
4. Scorpio 10th House: Discipline here is meted out by a powerful presence who expects unquestioning obedience to the rules, many of which are unwritten. Achievement centers around self-mastery and the ability to “out-perform” peers. Failure can produce sarcastic criticism in return. The child learns that controlling his life is the only way to feel safe.

GEMINI/SAGITTARIUS

Parenting issues are involved with interacting, communicating, reasoning and teaching. Talking to the child is the preferred way to handle him. Goals and how they are achieved become important. Emotions are filtered through the mental processes.

1. Gemini 4th House: Security is built around the ability to be flexible and adaptable. Nurturing is playful but restless with an emphasis on parent/child dialogue. The environment stresses books, educational toys and learning. Child is seen as the learner. Siblings may be involved in the child’s care.
2. Sagittarius 4th House: Security is built around space and freedom to explore. Nurturing is cheerful and optimistic with an emphasis on learning. Home environment is cultured, philosophical or religious. There is probably travel involved in the early years with an interest in nature, the outdoors and a love of animals.
3. Gemini 10th House: Achievement centers on reason and logic, intelligence and learning. The child is expected to be curious, flexible, and articulate. Humor and wit are rewarded along with skills in reading and writing. Discipline stems from lists of rules that are flexible as the child ages. Debate around issues is welcomed. Since friendly Gemini is sociable, exclusion from social events can act as a consequence for breaking rules.
4. Sagittarius 10th House: Achievement centers on learning and education which is idealistic. The child is expected to be energetic, outgoing and independent, perhaps athletic. Honesty and “straight talk” is expected and ignorance is not tolerated. Parent acts as a “teacher” using communication and reason to present the rules. Discipline here involves confinement since freedom is valued.

CANCER/CAPRICORN

There are issues around emotional security needs versus authority and responsibility; conditional versus unconditional love. Dependency can be an issue, either being too dependent on a parent or a parent being too dependent so that maturation and leaving home becomes more difficult.

1. Cancer 4th House: Nourishment is equated with nurturing. Nurturing is warm, affectionate, and protective. Security is built around the home and family which provides a safe structure. Early childhood experiences have great impact on the child’s life because past memories are the strongest. Emotional changes in mood can have a strong impact because what is needed most is a sense of safety and tranquility. The child is seen as important love object.
2. Capricorn 4th House: Nurturing can be cold, routine, structured and orderly. There may be poverty or depression in the home, even neglect. There is a lack of loving support and emotional closeness. Insecurity is built into the nurturing process which leads to a distrust of others as the child grows. The child is seen as a responsibility.
3. Cancer 10th House: Discipline and achievement center around traditional family values. Discipline may be loving but inconsistent based on moods. The child is expected to be sensitive, receptive, domestic and home-loving, and emotionally expressive. Consequences for breaking rules may take the form of withholding food or love.
4. Capricorn 10th House: Achievement and discipline center around issues of responsibility, obedience and hard work. The child is expected to follow the rules which are usually rigid and inflexible over time. The child is encouraged to be reliable, cautious, respectful and to help maintain the family’s public “good reputation”. Discipline is of the authoritarian type which is strict and uncompromising, tinged with the “Spare the rod and spoil the child” attitude. Parent is seen as the “lawgiver”.

LEO/AQUARIUS

There are issues around closeness versus freedom; the need to love and be loved; admiration and attention can be an issue with a parent, either needing it or giving it; the child can be rewarded for “performance”.

1. Leo 4th House: Nurturing is warm, affectionate and playful. The environment fosters creative expression, material and physical pleasures. The child is seen as an object of pride and an extension of the parent, therefore expected to look and act as a “star”.
2. Aquarius 4th House: Nurturing may be detached or impersonal and often inconsistent. The caretaker may be absent, busy with other activities or other children. Detachment is built into the attachment process. Child is seen as a “friend” rather than a dependent child. Freedom to explore is encouraged.
3. Leo 10th House: Achievement and discipline center around the pride that comes from success. The child is expected to be ambitious, self-confident, honest and proud. The child is often expected to fill the unfulfilled dreams of the parent. For example, parents who didn’t make it as athletes may push their sons into sports early and expect them to perform well. Discipline is meted out by a powerful authority figure who can be arrogant and demanding. Angry outbursts are not uncommon when expected results are not forthcoming. Loss of parental pride and child’s pleasurable activities are threatened or applied.
4. Aquarius 10th House: Achievement and discipline center around the need for freedom and independence. The child is expected to be inventive, original and idealistic. He is rewarded for being intelligent, friendly, a leader who is humanitarian, for being “different” from the crowd. Discipline is erratic and unpredictable and usually involves a loss of freedom for the child. Parent can become cold and distant to the child when angered.

VIRGO/PISCES

There are issues around perfection or the lack of it; codependent issues involving victim and rescuer; there can be an atmosphere of worry, negativity and dissatisfaction in the home, or a preoccupation with health and hygiene, or an emphasis on religion and sacrifice. Problems with alcoholism and drug addiction may also be present.

1. Virgo 4th House: Nurturing stresses orderly routines and schedules. Environment is organized, clean and hygienic or the complete opposite. The caretaker may be consumed with worry and anxiety which affects the child. Affection is rather sterile and timid. The child is seen as an object of imperfection that requires practical service.
2. Pisces 4th House: Nurturing involves sensitivity to the child’s needs but carelessness and confusion in responding. Boundaries may be blurred resulting in a codependent relationship between child and caretaker. The environment may be uncertain because of problems related to mental illness, alcohol or drug addiction or a sense of martyrdom.
3. Virgo 10th House: Achievement and discipline are colored with the idea of perfection. The child is expected to be helpful, practical, useful, thrifty and health conscious. Discipline is critical and fault-finding, never completely satisfied. Expectations of the child stress work rather than play. Consequences most likely center on loss of pleasurable activities replaced by emphasis on study and chores.
4. Pisces 10th House: Ideas of achievement and discipline are inconsistent. There can be an attitude of negativity and pessimism. Authority figure may be over-idealized in some way, perhaps because of absence or more attention paid to worldly affairs, such as found with physicians or ministers. The child is expected to be sensitive, idealistic or religious, self-sacrificing in service to family needs. Discipline may have a religious approach to consequences with a “this-is-done-for-your-own-good” attitude. Consequences vary and are applied inconsistently.