## MARSHALL ISLANDS
### BEHAVIOR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Traditional</th>
<th>Contemporary</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What kinds of discipline are used for different behaviors?</td>
<td>• Children were scolded and given special tasks for bad behavior</td>
<td>• Parents and older siblings scold children for misbehavior</td>
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<td>• Children were given more responsibilities to force adult behavior</td>
<td>• Rewards are given as incentives for good behavior</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Fathers spanked children so hard that sometimes medical treatment was needed</td>
<td>• The same reward may not be acceptable for/effective to all</td>
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<td>• Parents and older siblings scold children for misbehavior</td>
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<tr>
<td>What are acceptable and unacceptable behaviors for males and females?</td>
<td>• Unacceptable to stand among those seated</td>
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<td>• Younger males and females looked up to the eldest without question</td>
<td>• Some families allow daughters to joke in front of males</td>
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<td>• Males respected and took care of family members</td>
<td>• Females date before their brothers and may wear shorts or pants</td>
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<td>• Eldest male made decisions in parents’ absence</td>
<td>• Females do not raise their voices</td>
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<td>• Females never joked with brothers and uncles, walked close to males, wore shorts or pants, or dated before brothers</td>
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<td>Who has the responsibility of disciplining children?</td>
<td>• Mothers and grandmothers were responsible for care of children</td>
<td>• Same as traditional, though parents have more responsibility</td>
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<td>• Fathers, grandfathers, and uncles were responsible for disciplining children</td>
<td>• Churches and schools play roles</td>
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<td>How is children’s behavior controlled and</td>
<td>• Adult used scolding first, then corporal</td>
<td>• Parents receive better education so are more</td>
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</table>
| **misconduct eliminated?** | punishment (spanking and hard/heavy work around homes) | open to children, listen and talk to children to help solve problems, and use scolding as their primary form of discipline  
- Spanking is not effective with many children  
- Some parents and children are friends |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **What role does language or dialect play in social control?** | - Brothers and uncles listened to females  
- Everyone listened to leaders and royals  
- Children must be silent  
- Strong jokes were not allowed in public or at social gatherings | - Appropriate language must be used during social gatherings  
- Friends, young people, and older people tell jokes among themselves at social occasions |
| **What are the stories/proverbs associated with behavior control?** | - *Edik ak ekemetak*: Small but mighty  
  *Jeblab dejlok* applies to stingy people who do not want to share but like to take from others  
- *Jede ak eo*: We always have to be on the lookout (never let your guard down; usually applies to sailing) | - Same as traditional |