

The Impact of Parental Factors on Child Development

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Abstract

This literature review examined the impact of parental factors on different areas of child development (e.g., psychosocial development, academic performance). Factors include parenting styles (i.e., authoritarian, authoritative, permissive/ indulgent, uninvolved/neglectful and helicopter) and parental depression. Future directions and implications will be provided.

Authoritarian Parenting

Peer and Family Relationships

- Children were more reactive, their play more disruptive, and had more negative peer interactions (Gagnon et al., 2014).
- College students with authoritarian mothers reported feeling they had less social support from their peers, their fathers, and other family members (Laga c -S guin & DeLeavy, 2011).

Bullying and Aggression

- Children had the highest levels of anger toward mothers and peers, and highest levels of aggression with peers (De la Torre-Cruz et al., 2014).
- Children also more likely to be victims of bullying (Cerezo et al., 2017).

Authoritative Parenting

Peer and Family Relationships

- Received high levels of social support from all adults in their lives (Laga c -S guin & DeLeavy, 2011).
- Exhibited less physical aggression (De la Torre-Cruz et al., 2014).

Psychological Health

- Had the highest self-esteem, were the most well adjusted, and had the least psychological problems (Perez-Gramaje et al., 2020).

Academic Outcomes

- High academic outcomes and children reported facing challenges with ease (Checa et al., 2019).

Uninvolved/Neglectful Parenting

Bullying, Aggressiveness, and Socialization

- Common form of parenting for bullies (Cerezo et al., 2017).
- Children were physically aggressive toward peers (De la Torre-Cruz et al., 2014).
- Children had the lowest levels of self-esteem, internalizing social values, and empathy (Garc a et al., 2018).

Permissive/Indulgent Parenting

Psychological Health

- Fathers linked to more behavior problems and poor self-regulation. Also, they were more indulgent toward daughters (Cui et al., 2019).
- Mothers indulgent parenting led to emotional problems (Cui et al., 2019).

Bullying and Aggressiveness

- Children not involved in bullying typically had permissive parents (Cerezo et al., 2017).
- Less physical aggressiveness in comparison to authoritarian or neglectful parents (De la Torre-Cruz et al., 2014).
- Good self-esteem for aggressive and nonaggressive teens. Low psychological adjustment issues, good self-esteem about families (Perez-Gramaje et al., 2020).

Parental Depression

Internalizing Problems in Children

- When mothers had internalizing problems, children were more likely to also have internalizing problems (Weijers et al., 2018).
- When fathers' psychopathology was controlled, the relationship between mother and child psychopathology disappeared (Weijers et al., 2018).
- Children with depressed fathers were more likely to have emotional problems (Psychogiou et al., 2017).
- Children with two depressed parents were more likely to have only emotional and not behavioral problems (Psychogiou et al., 2017).

Externalizing Problems in Children

- Depressed parents who had fussy and difficult infants received parent training. After training, infants were happier, sleeping better, and less fussy (Rowe et al., 2012).
- Children with depressed parents expressed more symptoms of oppositional defiant disorder (Trepap et al., 2014) and behavioral problems (Psychogiou et al., 2017).
- Mothers' parental stress mediated the relationship between their internalizing problems and children's externalizing problems (Schleider et al., 2015).
- With paternal depression or depressive symptoms, children were more likely to have behavior problems (Psychogiou et al., 2017) and other externalizing problems (Schleider et al., 2015).
- With maternal depression children had short term behavior problems (Psychogiou et al., 2017).

Helicopter Parenting

- These parents were more involved with their children giving more guidance and emotional support to them (Padilla-Walker & Nelson, 2012).
- Children had negative outcomes, symptoms of psychopathology, and emotion dysregulation (Cui et al., 2019).
- Children were less engaged in school (Padilla-Walker & Nelson, 2012).
- Mothers' helicopter parenting was linked to children's psychological symptoms, lower emotion regulation, and lack of coping skills (Set et al., 2020).

Implications

- Because previous training programs have been found to improve children's outcomes (Rowe et al., 2012), more outreach and training programs for parents experiencing psychopathology are needed.
- Improving parental mental health can have positive impacts on children due to creating a more stable environment for the children.
- Help parents learn what is age-appropriate parenting for children as they develop from infancy through emerging adulthood.
- Educate parents on how parenting styles impact their children.
- Develop interventions for children exhibiting negative outcomes due to parental factors.

Future Directions

- Examine how other forms of parental psychopathology impact children's positive and negative outcomes.
- Determine the impact of parenting style experienced during childhood on individuals' own parenting styles in adulthood.
- Explore differences in optimal parenting styles across families from diverse cultures.
- More fully examine the impact of parenting factors on children's behaviors in school and academic achievement.