

# ***The Influence of Family Upbringing on Children's Peer Interaction Behavior and Peer Interaction Relationship***

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**Abstract:** With development of society, more and more parents pay attention to the problem about peer intercourse of children, but maladaptive parenting style is likely to have a negative impact on children's peer interaction. In order to explore the influence of parenting style on children's peer interaction behavior and peer interaction relationship, this study uses the literature review method to research and analyze the past Chinese and foreign survey results. Children under authoritative parenting style perform better in peer interaction. Children under authoritarian or neglected parenting style are more likely to be timid in peer interaction and be neglected. Children with indulgent parenting style produce more aggressive behavior in peer interaction and are often rejected by other children. Parents can change their parenting styles by changing their parents' educational concepts. At the same time, parents should maintain consistency in the upbringing of children. The parents also can provide children with opportunities for peer interaction, correctly guide them, and help children improve their level of peer interaction.

**Keywords:** Young children, peer interaction behavior, peer interaction relationship.

## **1. Introduction**

Parents are the first teachers of children; they always bring massive effect for the children. Peer interaction is an important part of children's growth, while it plays a vital role in the future development of children.

Nowadays, the growth and development of children has attracted more and more attention from parents, but some parents only pay attention to the physical growth of children or only pay attention to the study of subject knowledge, ignoring a compulsory course for children with interpersonal communication. Parents' lack of attention to peer interaction leads to children's inability to acquire correct interpersonal skills at home, which in turn affects children's peer interaction behavior and peer interaction relationship. The family's maladaptive parenting style, parents' lack of attention to peer interaction, parents' wrong demonstration of interpersonal communication and so on have a negative impact on children's peer interaction, which makes some children have problems in peer interaction. The lack of peer interaction ability is often manifested through the behavior of peer interaction or the relationship between peers.

Peer interaction ability is one of the basic abilities that children should have. The lack of peer interaction will make the development of children's sociality, language ability, empathy ability and

other aspects weak, which may lay hidden dangers for children's good physical and mental development in the future. Therefore, the author wants to explore the influence of parenting style on children's peer behavior and peer relationship in this study, and explore to improve the development of children's peer interaction in order to promote the harmonious development of children's body and mind.

## **2. Concept Definition**

### **2.1. Research Object**

In this study, the children who age from 3 to 6 were taken as the research object. Considering the children lack of some ability like writing, reading, therefore when the authors research, their parents will replace children to investigate.

### **2.2. Concept Definition**

According to previous scholars' research, the author defines parenting style as parents in the process of raising and educating children, the sum of the emotions, attitudes, and behaviors that treat with children [1]. Peer interaction ability is defined as the ability of children to interact with other children of similar age, including interpersonal skills, language communication skills and non-verbal skills, pro-social, social barriers [2]. Peer relationship is defined as the interpersonal relationship established and developed between an individual child and another individual child [3].

### **2.3. Types of Parenting Styles**

Based on the previous research, the parenting styles are mainly divided into the following four types: authoritative, authoritarian, indulgent and neglectful. The four types have different behavior and different types also have different effect for the children. Parents of authoritative parenting style respect and understand children's ideas, communicate with children on an equal basis, will put forward appropriate requirements for children. Parents of authoritative parenting style require children to abide by appropriate codes of conduct, the parents also actively respond to children's emotional needs, reasonably meet children's material requirements, when children encounter problems and difficulties, parents will give appropriate help and encouragement; this type of parents is authoritative in the hearts of children. Parents of authoritarian parenting style always treat children for a very strict way, they require the children comply with all their instructions, when children make mistakes or do not comply with orders, they will punish children or even corporal punishment of children, less response to children's emotional needs, and little attention to children's autonomy. Parents of indulgent parenting style have unlimited expectations and love for their children, and their children's material needs will be met as much as possible. They do not set up a rule system for their children, nor can they help their children learn the necessary social rules, leaving the children free to develop. Parents of neglectful parenting style are indifferent to their children and do not care about their children's growth, that is, they do not put forward reasonable requirements for their children, nor do they educate their children, and regard their children as transparent people.

### **2.4. Types of Peer Relationship**

The According to previous scholars' research, the peer relationship is mainly divided into the following four types: Popular type, neglected type, rejected type and general type. Parent of different parenting styles have different behavior when the children make friends with other children. Popular children are generally more active in peer communication, showing positive and friendly interaction behavior, willing to share, and can be accepted and loved by most peers. Rejected children are active

in peer interaction, but they often show unfriendly behaviors, such as forcibly joining other children's activities, grabbing toys, shouting loudly, like pushing and hitting, aggressive behaviors are more likely to cause conflicts with peers, resulting in them always being resisted or rejected in peer relationships. Rejected children dislike make friends with other children, while they always play or stay alone, and they show retreat or fear in the communication activities. General children perform neutral attitude in peer interaction that they don't proactive and friendly to communicate with other children and not harm or make conflict with other children.

### **3. The Influence of Parenting Style on Children's Peer Interaction Behavior**

In Zhang Qingrong and Xiao Xingzheng study, Children in two kindergartens in urban and rural areas of Heshan County were taken as the research objects, the children's parent as the survey object [4]. Paper questionnaires were distributed to parents to inquire basic information, parenting styles, and peer interaction [4]. This study points out that parents' education level, parents' occupation and children's living environment will affect their parenting style [4]. Children with indulgent parenting style will have self-willed selfish and self-centered behaviors in peer interaction, which is difficult to integrate into the collective [4]. Children with authoritarian parenting style may have two extremes in peer interaction [4]. Some children are completely subordinate to others, and some children show strong aggressive psychology or behavior when dealing with peers [4]. Children with neglected parenting styles may show resistance in peer interaction, be confused about peer interaction, and even have anxiety [4].

Li Junqing's study show the parenting styles of father and mother have different effects on children's peer interaction behavior [5]. Mother mainly affects children's social interaction skills, while father mainly affects children's interpersonal communication concepts [5]. Children with authoritative parenting style are willing to talk with their peers in peer interaction, and they are more confident in peer interaction; children with authoritarian parenting style are prone to conflict with other children, and even produce aggressive behavior; children with indulgent parenting style may attract attention through weird behavior [5]. For example, some children attract the attention of adults and peers by suddenly yelling or lying on the ground [5]. In peer interaction, they are more impulsive with aggressive behavior [5]. Children who ignore the type of parenting style are impulsive and often subordinate to others in peer interaction [5].

Marcone verified whether different parental styles will affect children's behavior during peer interaction in ecological environments such as classrooms [6]. Children with authoritarian parenting style are aggressive, hyperactive and unable to regulate their behavior [6]. Tolerant parental styles may increase frustration, negative emotions and depression [6]. Authoritative parental styles promote the realization of important social goals and skills [6].

There are plenty of studies show different parenting style led to different children's peer interaction behavior. [7] Children with authoritative parenting style have obtained correct peer communication skills in the family, are active and friendly in peer communication, are willing to communicate with other children, and can abide by some communication rules. Children with indulgent parenting style are often concerned by parents and elders at home. Parents will meet the basic requirements of children, which makes them easy to be self-centered. In interpersonal communication, they hope other children to obey him. When other children do not comply with their opinions or rules, they are prone to negative emotions. In peer communication, they are not willing to share with other children, and are prone to aggressive behaviors such as snatching. Children with authoritarian parenting style are often required to obey in the family. Therefore, there may be two different behaviors in peer interaction. One kind of children shows timidity in peer interaction, completely complies with the requirements of others, and is unwilling to express their own ideas. Another kind of children ask others to follow their requirements in peer interaction, when other children disobey, they are prone to

negative emotions and even aggressive behaviors. Children with neglectful parenting style are often left out in the family, and their emotional needs cannot be met. These children do not acquire interpersonal communication methods in the family, so they may escape in peer interaction. There are even social barriers and they are reluctant to communicate or play games with other children.

#### **4. The Influence of Parenting Style on Children's Peer Relationship**

In Wang Jing's research, 198 children from 6 classes in the kindergarten were selected as the research objects [8]. The peer nomination method, questionnaire survey method, natural observation method and interview method were used [8]. Descriptive statistical analysis, one-way analysis of variance and correlation analysis were used for data analysis [8]. The research shows that parents' educational concepts act on children's peer relationships through parenting styles [8]. Parents who are popular or general in peer relationships usually have more scientific educational concepts and can treat children democratically and scientifically [8]. Parents of neglected or rejected children generally adopt a more negative attitude to educate and raise children [8].

Liu Huiwen selected a class of 27 children for research, using peer nomination method, observation method and interview method to investigate [9]. Studies have shown that children's own factors such as Partial inhibition temperament type, Poor physical fitness and lack of social ability may lead to children being in a disadvantageous position in peer interaction [9]. At the same time, the study also points out that the neglected parenting styles of parents have the following problems, the first is that parents overprotect their children in their daily lives, making their children lack opportunities to communicate and establish relationships with their peers in their daily lives [9]. The second is that parents do not respond enough to their children, and do not pay enough attention to their children in the family, resulting in their children thinking that they are not important, so that their children's self-confidence and self-esteem are hit, making their children show timidity when interacting with their peers [9].

In the study of Kou Erhu, 310 children were selected, including 170 boys and 140 girls [10]. This study explores the influence of parenting style on children's peer relationship from the perspective of father and mother, using peer title, peer negative nomination, questionnaire survey and other methods [10]. The results show that the father's authoritative parenting style can significantly predict the acceptance or popularity of children in peer relationships [10]. The parenting style of parents will affect the positive nomination of children, which means that the closer the parenting style of parents is to the authoritative parenting style, the children are more loved by other children in peer relationships [10]. The higher the score of the father's authoritarian parenting style, the fewer the number of children's nominations, which means that children are in a state of rejection or neglect in peer relationships [10].

In conclusion, parenting style make different effect for the children's peer relationship. Parents of authoritative parenting style may give more scientific guidance to children when they have problems with peer interaction, the parents always help children solve contradictions, and thus help children improve their level of peer interaction. Children with general authoritative parenting style are active in interacting with peers, they have certain communication skills, and can better deal with contradictions with peers, making such children popular or general in peer relationships. Parents of authoritarian parenting style are more controlling and refusing when they get along with children, and even some parents use more violent behaviors such as beating and corporal punishment to educate children. Children have strong imitation ability, which leads to children's control and rejection when interacting with peers, or some aggressive behaviors, making children of authoritarian parenting style often rejected or ignored in peer relationships. Parents of indulgent parenting styles generally respond positively to the needs of children and family members basically focus on children. Children under this type of parenting style may have different peer relationships. Some children are loved and taken

care of by parents at home, so the children can learn this skill by imitation. In the process of interacting with peers, they can actively respond to peers and give certain care to peers, making this type of children popular in peer relationships. Some children are concerned by most family members at home, all the needs of children are met, and no restrictions are made on children, when children have any crying, family members generally choose to compromise and obey the requirements of children, which makes children have the wrong concept of 'I am respected', and substitute this wrong concept into peer interaction. The children demand peers to fully comply with their own ideas, unwilling to share toys, resulting in other children dislike to play with such children, so such children may be in a state of rejection in peer relationships. Parents of neglect parenting styles generally choose to ignore children's emotional or material requirements. Children's basic needs cannot be met, which will lead to children's lack of self-confidence. In peer interaction, they are timid or cowardly, unwilling to actively interact with peers, and generally play alone. It led to such children are generally neglected in peer interaction.

## **5. Discussion and Suggestion**

### **5.1. Forming a Correct Concept of Education**

Parents' educational concepts are often reflected through parenting styles. Therefore, when parents have corrected educational concepts, they can use the correct way to educate or raise children. Parents can understand the development law of children through the Internet and related books, as well as the psychological characteristics of each stage, have a deeper understanding of children, and form a good parent-child relationship with children. At the same time, parents can also communicate with other parents, share educational experience with each other, and help themselves to form a correct view of children.

In terms of kindergartens, kindergartens can help parents form correct parenting styles by organizing parents' meetings or teachers to transmit correct educational concepts to parents in the process of talking with parents. In the community, the community can invite educational researchers and experts to make parenting videos for parents of children of different ages, so that parents can understand different parenting styles and feel different parenting, and reflect on their own parenting styles [11].

### **5.2. Unified Parenting Style**

The study of Sokjon and Tokhin shows that when each family member adopts different methods to raise a child, it will form a conflict parenting model, which will lead to ineffective education for young children and have a corresponding negative impact [12]. Unified parenting style is more conducive to children to form a correct concept of peer interaction. Children are younger and have not yet formed correct and perfect ideas. Therefore, when parents adopt different educational concepts, it is easy to confuse children's cognition and form educational conflicts. Children themselves cannot judge which concept is right and which concept is wrong, resulting in educational offset. For example, when children face toy snatching when playing games with other children, the mother tells the child that they should discuss with their peers, but the father tells the child that you can snatch it back directly, which will cause the child to not know which treatment is correct and unable to master the correct peer interaction skills. Therefore, family members should form a unified educational concept, help children form a correct concept of peer interaction and master correct peer interaction skills through model demonstration and picture book stories, so as to improve children's peer interaction behavior and peer relationship.



### 5.3. Providing Opportunities for Peer Interaction

Parents should encourage children to communicate more with other children in daily life, to communicate more harmoniously with their peers, and to take children to participate in social activities [13]. Parents or teachers can create opportunities for children to interact with peers by organizing related games or collective activities. In the process of children's peer interaction, parents should seize the opportunity of random education, positively guide children, and teach children correct peer communication skills to help children improve their peer communication ability. Children have strong imitateness; therefore, parents can lead children to get along with some children with strong peer interaction ability or who are more popular among children. Through peer learning and imitation, they can help children improve peer interaction behavior, make children more confident and active in peer interaction, and help children form a good peer relationship.

## 6. Conclusion

Overall, parents play a vital role in the growth of children, and parents' parenting style will have a positive or negative impact on children's peer interaction. Parents with authoritative parenting styles have scientific parenting concepts. Children under authoritative parenting styles tend to be more confident and more loved by their peers in peer interaction. Parents of authoritarian parenting style treat their children more strongly, which makes children show bullying or withdrawal behavior in their interaction with peers. Children under authoritarian parenting style are generally rejected or ignored in peer relationship. Parents of indulgent parenting styles lack correct guidance for children. Children under indulgent parenting styles have more anti-social behaviors, and are generally rejected in peer relationships. Parents with neglectful parenting styles lack attention to children. Such children often lack self-confidence and are neglected in peer relationships. Parents should form a scientific and unified parenting concept, create as many opportunities for children to communicate as possible, teach children the correct methods of peer interaction. Through the formation of scientific and correct parenting style to improve children's peer interaction behavior and peer relationship.

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