

The influence of the difference in early touch receiving from single-parent families and two-parent families on children's sociability

Nathalie Xue

ABSTRACT: *Among the five senses, the sense of touch is the most primitive, and the skin is the largest surface sensory organ, which is the external receptor of the central nervous system, so the stimulation of touch can promote the development of the nervous system. Touching can promote the maturity of infants' recognition, motor and social skills. Social touch is a powerful force can shape social reward, attachment, cognitive, communication, and emotional regulation from infancy and throughout life. When a newborn is born, it has responded to various stimuli from the external environment, and has basic physiological functions such as sight, hearing, touch, smell, and taste. At the same time, there will be some temporary primitive reflexes, through which the neonatal nervous system can be detected.*

KEYWORDS: *Touch, Social ability, Parent, Children*

1. Introduction

I want to compare the social ability of the children from a normal family and a single parent family. [1]A previous study that 156 mothers of 3-5-year-olds report on their own in a single-session online questionnaire using Qualtrics. The result that mothers' affirming attitudes toward positive touch coincided with the development of a social orientation that includes engagement with others, empathy, moral imagination, and low rates of misbehavior and psychopathology; stronger punishment attitudes related to lack of engagement, imagination, and higher rates of internalizing and externalizing psychopathology. 607 adults completed online surveys about their early childhood experiences as well as current attachment, mental health, moral orientations, and moral capacities. The result shows positive early touch was predictive of adult wellbeing and moral capacities and moral orientations in expected directions.

2.Participants

20 single-parent families and 20 two-parent families are involved in the experiment. All of

the participants are first time mothers and fathers with a child of 6 years old. We propose pair up the samples, which is, after all the 20 single-parent families are confirmed, find a two-parent family that has the similar educational background for parents, similar socioeconomic status, similar maternal

age, same race, same children's gender, the same school the child goes to for each of the single parent families. In this way, the bias between family background could be reduced.

2.1 Design and procedures:

2.1.1 Interview with the parents about their touch attitudes, responsivity upon their children, time spent with their children, living conditions and annual income, child's socio-moral behavior, child's moral orientation

2.1.2 observation during a lengthy in-home visit, focusing on touch behavior between parents and children

2.1.3 Interview with the children about their attitude upon social interactions, their moral orientation, how they interact with their parents, how much time their parents spend with them. Observe whether they are willing to speak during interviews.

2.1.4 observation on how they behave at school on social interactions

2.2 Interview with Parents

Family demographics

Purpose:

To pair up the single-parent families and two-parent families according to family demographics,

understanding the background of the families.

Questions: maternal age, race, education level, socioeconomic status

Touch attitudes:

Purpose:

to test the mother's knowledge and endorsement of a variety of parenting practices.

Method:

Ask the Parents to fill out the Adult-Adolescent Parenting Inventory, which is a parenting style

[2][3]questionnaire

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AAPI Online - Form A

Strongly

Agree

Agree Disagree

Strongly

Disagree Uncertain

22. A certain amount of fear is necessary for children to respect their parents.

SA A D SD U

23. Spanking teaches children it's alright to hit others.

SA A D SD U

24. Children who feel secure often grow up expecting too much.

SA A D SD U

25. There is nothing worse than a strong-willed two-year-old.

SA A D SD U

26. Sometimes spanking is the only thing that will work.

SA A D SD U

27. Children who receive praise will think too much of themselves.

SA A D SD U

28. Children should do what they're told to do, when they're told to do it. It's that simple.

SA A D SD U

29. Children should be taught to obey their parents at

all times.

SA A D SD U

30. Children should know what their parents need
without being told.

SA A D SD U

31. Children should be responsible for the well-being
of their parents.

SA A D SD U

32. It's OK to spank as a last resort.

SA A D SD U

33. Parents should be able to confide in their
children.

SA A D SD U

34. Parents who encourage their children to talk to
them only end up listening to complaints.

SA A D SD U

35. Children need discipline, not spanking.

SA A D SD U

36. Letting a child sleep in the parents' bed every
now and then is a bad idea.

SA A D SD U

37. A good spanking lets children know parents mean
business.

SA A D SD U

38. A good child will comfort both parents after they
have argued.

SA A D SD U

39. "Because I said so" is the only reason parents
need to give.

SA A D SD U

40. Children should be their parents' best friend. SA A D SD U

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AAPI Online - Form A

Strongly

Agree

Agree Disagree

Strongly

Disagree Uncertain

1. Children need to be allowed freedom to explore their world in safety.

SA A D SD U

2. Time-out is an effective way to discipline children.

SA A D SD U

3. Children who are one-year-old should be able to stay away from things that could harm them.

SA A D SD U

4. Strong-willed children must be taught to mind their parents.

SA A D SD U

5. The sooner children learn to feed and dress themselves and use the toilet, the better off they will be as adults.

SA A D SD U

6. Spanking teaches children right from wrong.

SA A D SD U

7. Babies need to learn how to be considerate of the needs of their mother.

SA A D SD U

8. Strict discipline is the best way to raise children. SA A D SD U

9. Parents who nurture themselves make better

parents.

SA A D SD U

10. Children can learn good discipline without being spanked.

SA A D SD U

11. Children have a responsibility to please their parents.

SA A D SD U

12. Good children always obey their parents.

SA A D SD U

13. In father's absence, the son needs to become the man of the house.

SA A D SD U

14. A good spanking never hurt anyone.

SA A D SD U

15. Parents need to push their children to do better. SA A D SD U

16. Children should keep their feelings to themselves. SA A D SD U

17. Children should be aware of ways to comfort their parents after a hard day's work.

SA A D SD U

18. Children learn respect through strict discipline. SA A D SD U

19. Hitting a child out of love is different than hitting a child out of anger.

SA A D SD U

20. A good child sleeps through the night.

SA A D SD U

21. Children should be potty trained when they are ready and not before.

SA A D SDU

Parent's behavior

Purpose:

To evaluate the level of touch children received from their parents.

Questions could be:

How much time do you spend with your children every day?

Would you take your child with you when you are at work/ do you hire babysitters/ ask others to

take care of your children/ just leave your child at home?

How often you do activities with your children?

What would you do when your child cries?

Psychopathology and Sociomoral behavior of children

Purpose:

to understand children's usual behavior when they are alone with their parents, whether they would

like to express their feelings to others. And, to observe whether the parents pay attention to their

children's behaviors and their conditions. In this way, we could make comparisons between parents'

attitudes upon their children of single-parent families and two-parent families. Subsequently, link

the difference in attitude to their touch attitudes and how often they offer their children affectionate touch.

Questions could be:

How often does your child misbehave?

How often does your child squeal with happiness?

how often do you see child behaviors in social situations?

How often does your child lack confidence?

Is your child afraid of meeting or talking to unfamiliar people?

2.3 Home visit, Observation of parent-children interaction

Maternal responsivity:

purpose:

To test the mother's verbal and affective responsiveness to the child and verbal responses.

Method:

completed Early Childhood Home Observation for the Measurement of the Environment

during observations and the parent interview during a lengthy in-home visit.

Lack of punishment behavior :

- 1) no more than one instance of corporal punishment
- 2) does not slap or spank the child
- 3) does not interfere or restrict the child more than twice.

Positive touch behavior :

- 1) parent picks up the child regularly when not sleeping
- 2) parent caresses or kisses the child at least once during the visit.

Child outcome:

Purpose:

To evaluate the behavior of children, their tendency to establish interactions, and expressing their

feelings.

Method:

Direct assessment of mother-child interaction.

Whether the children would take the initiative to ask their parents to play with them/ ask for a hug. Whether they would take the initiative to talk with the researchers when they visit their home.

Whether they would ask the researchers to play with them when their parents are working on

chores/ their work/ something they're busy with.

2.3 Interview with Children

Parent's behavior

Purpose:

To verify the parent's answers during the interview by comparing them with their children's

answers. And, to test how the children feel about the way their parents treat them, whether their

parents satisfied their desire to hug/kiss/interact with their parents.

Questions could be:

How often are you affectionately touched, kissed, or hugged by at least one of your parents or guardians?

Did you ever receive corporal punishment from a parent or guardian (e.g., hit, spanked, slapped, pinched)?

Moral orientation of children

Purpose:

to test children's understanding and attitude about social interactions

Method:

Evaluate whether they were shy to talk during the interview.

Put the child into a specific scenario and ask for what would they do under a particular

circumstance. For example:

If you are with a group of strangers at your age, what would you do?;

If you want to obtain something on a shelf but a stranger is standing in front of the shelf blocking

your way, what would you do?

2.4 Observation of children's behavior and social interactions at school

Psychopathology and Sociomoral behavior of children

Purpose:

Evaluate the parent's attitude upon their children by comparing what the parents answered during

the interview with the observations conducted on children's behavior at school.

Criteria:

How often the child participates in group activities in class.

How often the child volunteer to answer the teacher's question/ ask questions.

What the children do during breaks.

The way children communicate with other students

3.Future application

3.1 Education

For future application, the first part is early education. The touches that a person experience throughout their life affect the development of their brains. A description of this is “repetitive activation of a pathway strengthens those synapses, making it easier to pass information forward” (Gardner). Therefore, the more types of touches a person gets, the stronger his or her brain would be to interpret the informations.

In conclusion, if early education involved more touches for the young children, it would quite beneficial for these children's future development.

3.2 Medical

As we know, preterm infants are always weaker than normal infants. Sometimes these infants even have to stay in the (Neonatal Intensive Care Unit) NICU, but treatment instruments there could not provide touch to babies. What is more, the more preterm a baby was, the more and more their response to touch was attenuated, compared to full-term infants. Therefore, we could know that touch is even more important to the preterm infants than the normal one. Providing preterm infants with more human touch would be not only good for their mental health, but more significant, physical health. To increase the touch these infants could acquire NI CU doctors and nurses would use the tools and knowledge to offer preemies the same gentle touch full-term infants typically receive to thrive. This measurement could decrease neonatal death rate to a great extent.

3.3 Psychotherapy

Nowadays, a lot of people are suffering from mental disease. However, amid these grim numbers, people with mental health issues are turning to a range of wellness strategies that include massage therapy. Recent research is showing how massage therapy might work to mediate mood-influencing hormones like cortisol and how it might help mental health illnesses related to physical conditions such as heart disease and cancer. But more needs to be done.

The principal behind this is that. Each sensor neuron in the skin has a specialized capsule which physically links the nerve ending to the surrounding skin tissue. These senses would be transmit to the brain, and stimulate the brain to relax.

References

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