
NEWSLETTER

Family Cultural Capital and Child Social Skills: The Mediating Effects of Maternal Childcare Competence and Maternal Rough Parenting

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SOCIAL skills are essential to social adaptability and exchanges of the individual and have a significant impact on their academic and professional attainment. Individuals with superior social skills can perceive higher self-value while those with underdeveloped ones are more susceptible to mental problems due to their inability to properly interact with the external world. Family cultural capital poses direct effects on social skill development of the child, and they can be mediated by maternal childcare competence and the degree of roughness of maternal parenting.

This study sampled 750 children aged between three and seven years old from 5 kindergartens in Yunnan Province to investigate their family cultural capital, the level of their social skill development, childcare competence and parenting style of their mothers. Researchers distributed 750 electronic questionnaires and retrieved 705 valid ones, which constituted 94% of the total number of questionnaires. The majority of them were completed by mothers, with a small portion being filled out by other guardians.

Research findings demonstrated that family cultural capital was positively correlated with social skill development of the child, indicating that the more family cultural capital, the higher the level of social skill development of the child. Furthermore, family cultural capital was also positively related to maternal childcare competence, and so was maternal childcare competence to social skill development of the child. The more family cultural capital, the higher the maternal childcare competence; the higher the maternal childcare competence, the higher the level of social skill development of the child. At the same time, the degree of roughness of maternal parenting was negatively correlated with family cultural capital, and so was maternal childcare competence with child social skills. That indicated that in the family with less cultural capital and lower maternal childcare competence, the mother treated the children more roughly and the children generally had less developed social skills.

Additionally, it was discovered that maternal childcare competence could effectively mediate the relation between family cultural capital and so-

cial skill development of the child, with a mediating effect constituting 4.6% of the overall effect; that the degree of roughness of maternal parenting could also effectively mediate the relation between family cultural capital and social skill development of the child, with a mediating effect accounting for 18.9% of the overall effect; and that maternal childcare competence and the degree of roughness of maternal parenting had a significant chain mediating effect on the relation between family cultural capital and child social skills, which made up 2.5% of the overall effect.

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