

Advances in Social Science, Education and Humanities Research, volume 573 Proceedings of the 2021 International Conference on Modern Educational Technology and Social Sciences (ICMETSS 2021)

The Important Factor of Children's Social Skills: Parents' Styles

Chenqi Zhu1*

¹Saint Paul American School (Nacel International School System) *Corresponding author. Email: 449531@qq.com

ABSTRACT

The influence of parents on children is reflected in all aspects. People usually only know that parents have a great influence on children's education, but they don't know where these influences are reflected. Children's social skills are likely to be under the influence of their parents, through the side that parents present to their children, no matter consciously or unconsciously, and through the way they treat their children. This problem can be explored by referring to the characteristics of children, such as the ability to observe, imitate, judge and so on. The subjects of the study were parents and children. The research method is mainly through some basic knowledge based on psychology, as well as the search on Baidu related articles, after reading, sorting, judging and thinking, summed up some can be confirmed conjecture and analysis. In short, after a lot of consideration, parents have a huge impact on children's social skills.

Keywords: Children's social skills, parental behavior, children's social skill, observation ability

1. INTRODUCTION

Many factors control the development of a child's social skills. It's not just the natural character of a child, but also the influence of environment including the friends he contacts as well as the parents' styles. Before children start socializing with their peers, most of them usually come into contact with parents. Every minute behavior of a parent can affect their cognition, personality and social ability through their whole lives. This kind of influence is very significant, and because the parents' style is difficult to change, children will continue to be influenced by a certain style of parents. The extent to which they are affected will be deepened. Whether it is a vicious circle or a virtuous circle, it will continue to be reflected in children's social skills in a long term. So, what do parents do to their children's social skills? The study analyzes some characteristics of children at a low age, such as strong observation ability, strong imitation ability and weak judgment ability, which lead to the maximization of parents' influence on children. In addition, the way parents treat their children and the common inappropriate behaviors including parents' control over children and parents' shaping of children's characters are also listed and explained. Behind this series of information, we can finally get effective results. It has been proved that parents can influence children's social skills. The results of this study can greatly help and motivate some parents and the society to understand in what way the child is affected and how they can better educate their children. This can make children have more comprehensive development, refine the way of education from their parents, and improve the level of education in the consideration of children's latter social skill that greatly influences their lives.

2. ANALYSIS

2.1. Reasons that Children's Social Skill Affects by Parental Behavior

2.1.1. Children's strong observation ability

Children's observation ability is very strong. Since they are too young to have a lot of life experience in their age, observation is their fundamental way to aid them to understand the whole new world. For children, the world is brand new, but no one answers all the questions for them all the time they want. An experiment shows that children sometimes observe things more carefully, even more carefully than adults, because they don't have more knowledge and they can't classify things. [Children Can Have A Better Memory Than Adults (At Least Sometimes)] [1] Children are curious about the unknown, and they do not have a lot of work and interference, so they have reason and enough energy to observe all aspects of life. They have a power of observation that cannot be ignored. Therefore, as early parents who are close to their children, their behaviors have been displayed and exposed for many times in the presence of their children, that is, they will be carefully observed many times by their children's eyes. This provides a very favorable way for children to imitate their parents' behavior and lifestyle.

2.1.2. Strong imitation ability

The outstanding ability of children's imitation is also obvious. "Experts say that imitation with intent starts in toddlerhood, when children have developed the cognitive and motor skills to figure it out and their language and communication skills are exploding" [2]. Many of their skills are taught step by step by their parents, such as daily-life skills including brushing their teeth, washing their face, dressing themselves or communication skills and so on. But children's actions and behaviors in life are not all learned by intentional instruction or guidance. Children's ability to imitate is another major ability that enables them to learn behavior from others. Children's abilities to brushing teeth and washing face, if have not been carefully taught, can also be learned by imitating. Thus, the parent with whom the child has the most contact and close ties is a very easy and first target for the child to imitate, whether or not the parent intends to teach the child to imitate his or her own social behavior, the child will observe and imitate that behavior.

2.1.3. Poor judgment ability

There is the child's analytical ability and judgment ability is poor. Without a long period of education and development, children can't judge right from wrong, let alone judge what behavior is suitable for them to imitate. There are so many kinds of complicated behaviors and indescribable attitudes of adults around them, that means it is unlikely for them to explain or even perceive each behavior and attitude to their children, especially the very subtle behaviors and attitudes. Without the control of adults, the information around children will be received by them without screening. Then all parents' behavior and attitude will be uncontrollably imitated by children intentionally or unintentionally. Therefore, it is difficult even impossible for the parents to regulate, limit or control the imitation of children to a very appropriate and suitable extent that those parents or children want.

2.2. Two Aspects of Parental Behavior Affecting Children's Social Interaction

2.2.1. The way parents interact with others

If parents are very good at communicating and reasoning with others, then when children observe adults, they will learn how to open a friendship with others or how to communicate with others in a friendly and harmonious way, and imitate and learn from them, so as to incorporate some parents' styles into their social life. A positive example and environment will undoubtedly benefit them. But when the parents' bad social behaviors and attitudes are exposed to their children, they will also imitate them. On the contrary, if some parents themselves are not very good at socializing and can rarely let their children see the way they socialize, their children will not be able to receive social information, and it is difficult to have a good social foundation. These children may not be as social and may be anxious or want to avoid too much socializing. "There are different degrees of correlation between the factors of children's social anxiety and the factors of parental rearing style. If the father and mother are warm to the child, the child will not be afraid of negation and social avoidance, and the child's social anxiety will be less; on the contrary, if the father and mother punish the child severely, interfere excessively and refuse to deny, the child's social anxiety will be more." [The Relationship Between Children's Social Anxiety and Parental Rearing Style and Temperament Type] [4]

2.2.2. The way parents treat their children

The second factor is the way parents treat their children. Because each parent's personality, family background, cultural background and age are different, the way they treat their children is naturally different. For example, some parents advocate being tough on their children, while others may overindulge their children. Growing up in different environments and receiving different educational methods will also be reflected in children's ability to socialize with others. Because the way parents treat their children is strongly involved in the formation of their character, their character will be significantly reflected in their social life. Therefore, the way parents treat their children is likely to be reflected in their children's behavior towards others [4].

2.3. Two Aspects that Parents tend to make big mistakes when they treat their children

2.3.1. Parents' control over their children

First of all, family control of children is very important, parents should establish a correct concept of

children's views. Parents need to always remember that children are individuals. Because parents are also parents for the first time, they don't have good experience. Some parents excessively hope that their children will have great achievements in the future, so they impose excessive control and restraint on their children. They may have planned a very long way for their children. This strong desire for control is to deprive children of their right and ability to make their own choices. This makes the children lack a lot of exercise opportunities, so that they cannot better think independently, independent judgment [5]. When facing people other than their parents, when they have to face all kinds of choices in social life independently, they may be very limited and even want to escape. However, parents should not indulge their children too much. Especially in one-child families, some parents can't see their children suffer a little injustice and injury. In their eyes, their own child is a perfect angel, even if they do something wrong, it is because they are young and ignorant. This kind of thinking is bound to convey a extraordinary serious wrong message and attitude to children. Then children will think that their parents dote on them everywhere, let them, others should do the same to them. But obviously other people don't, and usually people don't want to get along with people who think that way. So, the way parents treat their children is excessive.

2.3.2. The cultivation of parents' confidence in their children

Then parents need to cultivate their confidence in their children. Some of the parents' frightening behavior and language are not appropriate. Sometimes when parents want to make their children obedient but do not want to explain too much, they may make up stories to deceive the children. [6]. These behaviors of parents are due to the lack of confidence in their children. Although this kind of behavior makes parents achieve their goal for a short time, it will leave psychological shadow for children and make them timid and not confident. In addition, parents' overprotection will also reflect less confidence that parents' put in their children. Some parents do everything for their children in order to avoid injury or add trouble, so that children have no chance to try and practice. Over time, children may develop the idea of "I can't do anything", or they may become cowardly and have no opinion, thus becoming inferiority complex. Proper praise is also a great tool to promote children's self-confidence. Children are very dependent on their parents. They need their parents' encouragement and praise to maintain their self-confidence [7]. With praise, they think it's right to keep doing it, maintaining a positive attitude towards challenges and tasks, and they'll have the idea of trying new things, which will bring unexpected surprise and progress. Appropriate praise can make them feel that they are recognized and supported by their parents. This is also essential in the formation of their self-confidence. With self-confidence, you can express your opinions and wishes in social life, instead of hiding the opportunity to show yourself. Improper treatment by parents will inevitably affect children's ability to show and interest in social intercourse.

3. DISCUSSION

Parents' criticism of their children needs to be properly controlled in many ways. Sometimes, because of the pressure of life, parents are grumpy or ask too much of their children, and they are likely to blame their children too much in a very inappropriate way. But excessive criticism for children will make them feel inferior, they may not be willing to communicate in front of others, which block their social networks. Another possibility is that excessive criticism will make children rebellious and unwilling to listen to other people's criticism and suggestions, which affects their social interaction process. Both of these results will have a really negative impact on the children's social life.

4. CONCLUSION

Through the research, children's social ability is influenced by parents, mainly through the behavior of parents and the way parents treat their children. Because of children's strong observation ability, imitation ability and immature judgment ability, children will imitate parents' behavior without careful screening. In addition, children will have different personalities because of the different treatment of parents, resulting in different levels of social skills. Therefore, parents need to give more consideration to their children's feelings and cultivate their social skills when educating their children.

AUTHORS' CONTRIBUTIONS

This paper is independently completed by the author.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Thank Professor Denis Szucs for his lecture and suggestions from some classmates.

REFERENCES

 [1] Ohio State University. (2004, July 22). Children Can Have A Better Memory Than Adults (At Least Sometimes). ScienceDaily. Retrieved February 18, 2021 from www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2004/07/04072208 5301.htm



- [2] Rachel. (2016, October 03). When Kids Imitate Their Parents. Retrieved from https://blogs.brighthorizons.com/familyroom/when -kids-imitate-their-parents/
- [3] Chen Mingli, Tang Xianwu, Liang Fuyi. Research on children's imitative behavior and early education enlightenment[J]Science, Education and Literature (late issue),2020(12):139-140+153.
- [4] Guo Long. The relationship between children's social anxiety and parental rearing style and temperament type[D]. Qufu Normal University, 2011.
- [5] Budd, K. S., & Itzkowitz, J. S. (1990). Parents as social skills trainers and evaluators of children. Child & Family Behavior Therapy, 12(3), 13-30.
- [6] Xiaoyun Sun, Dan Liang. Family is a practice field for cultivating children's social skills[J]. Marriage and Family (Family Education Edition), 2020(12):30.
- [7] Hirokazu, TANIGUCHI, Mitsuhiro, & URA. (2001). The links between parents' child rearing attitudes, children's social skills, and support giving and support receiving in friendships among children. Japanese Journal of Social Psychology.