The influence of early child-raising by grandparents on children’s personality and adaptation

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Introduction

• Few research about grandparenting in China
• Objective of this research: examine the influence of early child-raising by grandparents on preschool children’s personality

Method

• Participants: 530 parents of 3-6yrs children in Shanghai
• Questionnaire: demographics of family, parenting style, child’s personality, class in kindergarten, child’s adaptation in kindergarten

Results

Three factors were extracted by exploratory factor analysis
– personality: stranger shyness (SS), easy frustration (EF) and prosociality (P)
– adaptation: difficulty in attending kindergarten (DAK), preoccupied attachment to parents (PAP)

Conclusions

Although with children’s growth, their emotion-control ability, prosociality and adaptation in kindergarten will be improved, the only-grandparents parenting style still may have some negative influence on children’s personality and adaptation than only-parents parenting or co-parenting with grandparents.

Table1: The personality and adaptation scores by grades in kindergarten

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>DAK</th>
<th>PAP</th>
<th>SS</th>
<th>EF</th>
<th>P</th>
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<tr>
<td>Grade1</td>
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<td>13.05</td>
<td>20.12</td>
<td>16.32</td>
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<tr>
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<td>12.04</td>
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<td>6.38</td>
<td>11.2</td>
<td>19.32</td>
<td>14.12</td>
<td>9.77</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1: The differences in personality and adaptation by grades in kindergarten

Figure 2: The difference in personality and adaptation by parenting style.
* p < .05; ** p < .01.

Acknowledge: Many thanks for the great cooperation of the participants and the support by all teachers of Shanghai Baiyun Kindergarten.