ARTICLE

Influence of parents' strategies for Dealing with sibling Conflict on Children's sibling relationship: The mediating role of parent-child relationship

Yuge YUE

Ningde Normal University, Ningde,352100

Abstract

Since the implementation of China's new family planning policy in 2016, the structure of Chinese families has undergone significant changes, making sibling relationships an important subsystem of the family relationship system. This study explores the interactions and internal mechanisms between sibling relationships, parent-child relationships, and parents' strategies for handling sibling conflicts within families with preschool children aged 3-6. The study hypothesizes that parents' strategies for resolving sibling conflicts affect sibling relationships and that the parent-child relationship mediates this effect. Using convenient sampling, data were collected from kindergartens in four cities in Fujian Province, with 1386 questionnaires completed by parents. The study finds significant positive correlations between parents' strategies for handling sibling conflicts and both sibling relationships and parent-child relationships. Furthermore, the parent-child relationship mediates the relationship between parents' strategies and sibling relationships. The results suggest that adopting child-centered strategies for handling sibling conflicts and building good parent-child relationships can promote healthy sibling relationships and ensure the normal operation of the family system.

1. Introduction

Since the implementation of the new family planning policy in 2016, the structure of Chinese families has undergone significant changes. The arrival of a second or third child has made sibling relationships an important subsystem of the family relationship system.

When the family relationship system changes, we must pay attention to the direct or indirect impact of the newly generated subsystem—sibling relationships—on other subsystems to ensure the normal operation of the family system.

Cicirelli believes that when the first child recognizes the birth of another individual, a so-called sibling relationship is formed. This relationship includes all interactions, including behavior, verbal and non-verbal communication, etc., and often involves two or more individuals who share common parental experiences, attitudes, feelings, and beliefs[1]. Sibling relationships are one of the longest-lasting social relationships most people experience[2], and they play a crucial role in individual development[3]. When the second child arrives, the first child must learn to accept and adapt. During this process, the first child may exhibit a series of negative psychological behaviors such as anxiety, inferiority, and selfishness. The strong possessiveness of the eldest child may lead them to do things detrimental to others[4]. These behaviors of the first child gradually alleviate as the second child grows up because the first child has accepted the fact of having a sibling. Meanwhile, the younger sibling, during their growth, brings love and warmth to the first child, which is different from the love and warmth given by parents. Of course, another scenario is that as the second child grows up, conflicts between the two children may intensify due to factors such as vying for parental attention, toys, books, snacks, etc. Therefore, sibling relationships show different characteristics and types during their development: the first type is warm and harmonious sibling relationships, accounting for 36.5%; the second type is hostile and conflictual sibling relationships, accounting for 20.7%; and the third type is a mix of warmth and hostility, accounting for 40.8%[5]. This shows that sibling conflict is an important form of sibling relationship development.

Sibling conflict is a normal phenomenon in the development of sibling relationships. Some studies suggest that the more time siblings spend together, the more conflicts they will have[6]. Sibling conflict has both positive and negative impacts on children's development. Smith and Ross (2007) believe that sibling conflict can be seen as an adaptation process to others' characteristics, where persistence, compromise, communication, and handling processes are skills needed for future social relationships[7]. However, Katz (1992) argues that this understanding of the role of sibling conflict is somewhat idealized, and destructive conflicts between siblings can lead to destructive development in the future, with young children likely to develop behavioral problems[8]. Sibling conflict not only affects the healthy development of sibling relationships but also has negative effects on the individual, leading to more sleep problems, behavioral disorders after school enrollment, antisocial behavior, problematic peer interactions, etc.[9]. In summary, sibling conflict is an important influencing factor in the development of sibling relationships. According to existing research, sibling conflict is influenced by family, social, and individual sibling factors. Among these factors, family factors mainly include parents' marital relationship, parent-child relationship, parenting style, and parents' strategies for handling sibling conflict[10]. In the early stages, children have low problem-solving abilities. When facing conflicts with siblings, they mostly seek help from parents. Therefore, how parents handle conflicts between their children is the key to resolving sibling conflicts.

According to existing research, there are three main strategies parents use to handle sibling conflicts: child-centered strategies, control strategies, and non-intervention strategies[11].

Child-centered strategies are relatively scientific ways of handling sibling conflicts. In these strategies, children themselves are the main agents in resolving conflicts. Parents stand in the children's shoes, allowing them to solve problems through expression and negotiation in a peaceful manner. This method not only promotes the healthy development of sibling relationships but also teaches children how to handle problems and interact properly with others. Studies have found that parents who adopt child-centered strategies are closely linked to fewer subsequent sibling conflicts[12]. Research by Xu Lu et al. (2022) confirmed the scientific and effective nature of child-centered strategies. Xu Lu et al. believe that using child-centered strategies to handle sibling conflicts allows children to feel their mother's friendliness and kindness, which is then transmitted to sibling relationships, increasing the warmth of these relationships. Conversely, when mothers control or ignore their children's sibling conflicts, conflicts among siblings increase, and the warmth of sibling relationships decreases[13]. Control strategies, starting from the parents themselves, involve measures such as punishment, threats, deprivation of privileges, or other controlling behaviors to reduce or eliminate conflicts[14]. Studies have found that parents who adopt control strategies may bring about more conflicts[15]. Non-intervention strategies, opposite to control strategies, involve parents completely ignoring or disregarding their children's conflicts, either not caring, not intervening, or letting the children resolve the conflicts themselves[16]. Studies have found that when parents do not intervene in conflicts, younger siblings exhibit more hostile behaviors[17]. This strategy is more suitable for adult siblings, who have better abilities to manage and resolve their conflicts[19]. This study's subjects are preschool children aged 3-6, who lack the ability to resolve conflicts on their own. Therefore, we agree with the views of Perozynski and Kramer. Consequently, this study hypothesizes that parents' strategies for resolving sibling conflicts are significantly positively correlated with sibling relationships.

The parent-child relationship is one of the longest and most important relationships in the family. Many studies have focused on the role and impact of the parent-child relationship within the family system. The parent-child relationship refers to the interpersonal relationship formed by the interaction between parents and children based on kinship and cohabitation[20]. For young children, the earliest social relationship they form is with their parents. Studies have shown that the quality of the parent-child relationship affects children's brain development, thereby influencing their social, emotional, and cognitive development[21]. Research on children's behavioral problems has also found that a good parent-child relationship acts as a protective factor in the development of children's behavioral problems, reducing their occurrence[22]. A good parent-child relationship helps children gain happiness[23], and warm, intimate, and emotionally open parent-child relationships can help children recover quickly from major traumatic events[24]. Therefore, the parent-child relationship significantly influences children's growth and development, making it important to build a good parent-child relationship. Existing research shows that the parent-child relationship is influenced by other factors, such as parenting style, marital relationship, peer relationships, etc.[25], which directly or indirectly affect the development of the parent-child relationship. There is no specialized discussion on the relationship between parents' strategies for resolving sibling conflicts and the parent-child relationship, but some studies suggest that mothers' strategies for handling sibling conflicts indirectly reflect their parenting style[26]. Therefore, we can infer that parents' strategies for resolving sibling con-

flicts influence the construction of the parent-child relationship, and the two are correlated. According to family systems theory, the interaction between the parent-child relationship and sibling relationships is significant. Dunn and Kendrick's research supports this view, stating that the positive impact of sibling relationships on young children is second only to the parent-child relationship, and that cohabitation with siblings can provide emotional support for children[27]. Sibling relationships play an important role in the socialization process of young children, helping them develop social understanding, perspective-taking abilities, and socio-emotional development through sibling interactions, which in turn aids in the construction of other social relationships[28]. Research has also found that positive parent-child relationships are associated with good sibling relationships[29], while negative parent-child relationships are associated with conflict and aggression between siblings[30]. These findings can be explained by the spillover hypothesis, which emphasizes that the influences or relationship management strategies learned in one relationship can be applied to handling other relationships. However, some studies using the compensatory hypothesis have reached different conclusions, suggesting that when the parent-child relationship with both children is poor, the sibling relationship between the two children becomes closer and warmer[31]. Based on this, this study hypothesizes that parents' strategies for resolving sibling conflicts can influence sibling relationships through the mediating role of the parent-child relationship.

Existing research has explored the relationships between various subsystems within the family, but most studies focus on primary and secondary school students, with less attention to preschool children. This study focuses on preschool children aged 3-6 and aims to explore the interactions and internal mechanisms between sibling relationships, parent-child relationships, and parents' strategies for handling sibling conflicts within the family system. The study aims to expand theoretical research on family relationships in the new era and provide educational advice for parents in practice to create a good family environment and promote the healthy growth of young children. The study hypothesizes: (1) Parents' strategies for resolving sibling conflicts affect sibling relationships; (2) Parents' strategies for resolving sibling conflicts also affect the parent-child relationship, which can moderate sibling relationships, with the parent-child relationship serving as a mediator.

2.   Research Method

2.1   Research Subjects

This study uses convenient sampling to select samples from kindergartens in Xiamen, Zhangzhou, Quanzhou, and Ningde in Fujian Province. The subjects are preschool children with siblings, and teachers help distribute questionnaires to their parents, explaining the purpose and significance of the survey. A total of 1386 questionnaires were collected.

2.2   Research Tools

2.2.1   Parents' Strategies for Handling Sibling Conflicts Scale

The "Parents' Strategies for Handling Sibling Conflicts Scale" compiled by Zhang Jialun[32] (2010) and revised by Xu Lu et al. (2020)[33] is used as the measurement tool. The scale examines parents' strategies for handling sibling conflicts and reflects parents' ability to

cope with sibling conflicts. According to Zhang Jialun and Xu Lu's research, parents' strategies for handling sibling conflicts include child-centered, parental control, and passive non-intervention strategies. The scale measures these three dimensions with a total of 17 items: 6 items for child-centered strategies, 5 items for parental control, and 6 items for non-intervention. The scale uses a 5-point scoring method (1 indicating completely disagree, 5 indicating completely agree), with higher scores in each dimension indicating a greater tendency for parents to adopt that strategy. In this study, the Cronbach's alpha coefficient for the scale is 0.753.

2.2.2   Sibling Relationship Scale

The "Sibling Relationship Questionnaire" compiled by Furman and revised by Zhu Jing (2020)[35] is used as the measurement tool. The scale reflects the interaction between young children and their siblings and parents' perceptions of their children's sibling relationships. The scale includes three dimensions: sibling intimacy, sibling relative status, and sibling conflict, with a total of 31 items: 15 items for sibling intimacy, 11 items for sibling relative status, and 5 items for sibling conflict. The scale uses a 5-point scoring method (1 indicating completely disagree, 5 indicating completely agree), with higher scores indicating greater intimacy between siblings, more evident sibling relative status, and higher frequency of sibling conflicts. In this study, the Cronbach's alpha coefficient for the scale is 0.812.

2.2.3   Parent-Child Relationship Scale

The "Parent-Child Relationship Scale" compiled by Pianta and Virginia (1992)[36] and revised by Zhang Xiao (2008)[37] is used as the measurement tool. The scale includes two dimensions: intimacy and conflict, with a total of 22 items, 11 items each for intimacy and conflict. The scale uses a 5-point scoring method (1 indicating completely disagree, 5 indicating completely agree), with higher scores indicating greater intimacy and lower conflict in the parent-child relationship. In this study, the Cronbach's alpha coefficient for the scale is 0.789.

2.3   Data Processing and Common Method Bias Test

SPSS 21.0 is used for data analysis. To ensure the scientific validity of the questionnaire data, Harman's single-factor test is used to test for common method bias[38]. The results show that there are 13 common factors with eigenvalues greater than 1, with the first common factor explaining 20.291% of the variance, which is less than the critical value of 40%, indicating that there is no common method bias in this study.

3.   Results

3.1   Correlation between Parents' Strategies for Handling Sibling Conflicts, Parent-Child Relationship, and Sibling Relationship

It can be seen that parents' strategies for handling sibling conflicts are significantly positively correlated with both sibling relationships and parent-child relationships; demographic variable age is significantly positively correlated with parent-child relationships.

3.2   Mediating Role of Parent-Child Relationship

Hayes' (2013) SPSS macro Model 4[39] is used to test the mediating effect of the parent–child relationship between parents' strategies for handling sibling conflicts and sibling relationships, controlling for gender and age, with a 95% confidence interval estimated through 5000 samples. The results show that the positive predictive effect of parents' strategies for handling sibling conflicts on the parent-child relationship is significant (β = 0.50, t = 20.87, p < 0.001); the positive predictive effect of the parent-child relationship on sibling relationships is also significant (β = 0.29, t = 12.40, p < 0.001). Therefore, the mediating effect of the parent–child relationship exists; after adding the mediating role of the parent-child relationship, the positive predictive effect of parents' strategies for handling sibling conflicts on sibling relationships decreases (β = 0.26, t = 9.76, p < 0.001), significantly reduced. Therefore, the parent-child relationship partially mediates the relationship between parents' strategies for handling sibling conflicts and sibling relationships.

Further analysis of the mediating effect of the parent-child relationship shows that the direct effect value of parents' strategies for handling sibling conflicts on sibling relationships is 0.26, and the indirect effect value of parents' strategies for handling sibling conflicts on sibling relationships through the parent-child relationship is 0.16, with the Bootstrap 95% confidence interval for the indirect effect being 0.14—0.20, all of which do not include zero. Therefore, there is a significant mediating effect of the parent-child relationship, and the mediating role of the parent-child relationship between parents' strategies for handling sibling conflicts and sibling relationships is shown in Figure 1.

4.   Discussion

4.1   Relationship between Parents' Strategies for Handling Sibling Conflicts and Young Children's Sibling Relationships

Parents' strategies for handling sibling conflicts are significantly positively correlated with sibling relationships, which is consistent with previous research[40]. The development of sibling relationships is influenced by many factors, and parents are one of the most important factors affecting the development of young children's sibling relationships within the family system. Chen Binbin et al.'s research pointed out that parents' behavior towards their children can affect sibling relationships[41]. For preschool children, imitation is an important learning method, and parents' ways of treating children and handling problems become important learning resources for young children, which they apply to their social behaviors.

This study found that when parents adopt a "child-centered" strategy to handle sibling conflicts, the warmth of sibling relationships is higher, which is consistent with Zhang Jialun's research[42]. In this handling strategy, parents listen attentively to their children's voices and guide them to face and solve problems. This approach allows children to feel love and warmth, reducing or eliminating the idea that their siblings are competing for parental love. Research shows that sibling jealousy increases aggressive behaviors and reduces mutual helping behaviors among siblings[43]. It also teaches children how to handle conflicts between siblings, naturally leading to warm and harmonious sibling relationships. When parents adopt "control" or "passive non–intervention" strategies to handle sibling conflicts, the warmth of sibling relationships decreases, and conflict increases. Zhang Jialun's research

also believes that the more mothers use "control" strategies, without understanding the causes and consequences of conflicts, directly using punishment, orders, or requiring the older child to yield to the younger one to handle sibling conflicts, the more likely it is to cause feelings of unfairness or grievance in one of the children, leading to negative emotions. Therefore, it is more likely to cause conflicts between siblings. In this unfair handling method, whether it is the older or younger child, they will compete to win the parents' favor, escalating the "competitive" nature of sibling relationships, making hostile and conflictual sibling relationships the dominant type[44]. The study found that passive non–intervention strategies are significantly positively correlated with sibling conflict and significantly negatively correlated with sibling intimacy, with no correlation with sibling relative status. This means that when parents ignore or neglect conflicts between children, sibling conflicts intensify. Because young children lack the ability to resolve problems on their own and cannot learn how to resolve conflicts from their parents, when sibling conflicts recur, children lack appropriate conflict resolution methods, which may exacerbate sibling conflicts[45]. However, it is worth noting that parents' disregard does not increase children's competition for parental attention. Sibling conflicts are often resolved by the older child suppressing the younger one, establishing authority over the younger sibling. The relative status between them does not change, and the younger child may become more attached to the older child due to parental neglect, forming a mix of warmth and conflict in the sibling relationship[46].

4.2   Mediating Role of the Parent-Child Relationship

The study found that the parent-child relationship mediates the relationship between parents' strategies for handling sibling conflicts and sibling relationships. This is consistent with previous research findings. The parent–child relationship reflects the warmth or conflict between parents and children. Children learn how to handle interpersonal relationships from their parents early on, even if parents do not acknowledge or are unaware of this influence. Existing research has found that children's aggression, social withdrawal, and social responsibility are closely related to the parent-child relationship[47]. Chen Binbin et al.'s research believes that the parent-child relationship is an important family environment factor in the field of sibling relationships[48]. Moreover, existing research has found that the relationship between parents and children can extend to sibling relationships. Parental hostility towards the firstborn child in the parent-child relationship can lead to more conflicts in the sibling relationship established later between the first and second child[49]. The mother's acceptance of the second child is positively correlated with sibling intimacy[50]. This also supports the spillover hypothesis. Therefore, the mediating role of the parent-child relationship exists.

When dealing with sibling conflicts, if parents' handling methods are inappropriate, the warmth and knowledge children gain from their parents will differ. Child-centered handling strategies come from authoritative families, where parents can correctly address conflicts between children and handle problems from the child's perspective. Therefore, children are more attached to and trust their parents, making their social qualities more likely to develop positively. This is consistent with previous research. Sun Lihua and Zhang

Anran's (2018) research believes that children from authoritative families consider their sibling relationships to be closer. When attributing negative events between siblings, they first attribute it to themselves and then to others, being able to rationally view sibling relationships[51]. Conversely, parents who use control or passive non-intervention methods to handle sibling conflicts make children feel neglected and unloved by their parents, leading to strained parent-child relationships. This study found that simple and crude education worsens the parent-child relationship, with a significant positive correlation between the two, which is consistent with existing research. For example, father-child conflict is significantly associated with sibling conflict[52]. Therefore, parents' attitudes towards both children and their strategies for handling sibling conflicts directly affect the parent-child relationship. The two are significantly correlated, and parents adopting scientific strategies for handling sibling conflicts can optimize the parent-child relationship.

The study found a significant positive correlation between the parent-child relationship and sibling relationships, consistent with existing research. Many studies abroad have confirmed the correlation between parent-child and sibling relationships. Many studies support the association between positive parent-child relationships and good sibling relationships, while negative parent-child relationships are associated with sibling conflict and aggression[53]. Therefore, as two very important subsystems within the family system, establishing a good parent-child relationship can optimize sibling relationships. Chen Binbin's research found that supportive parent-child relationships promote warm sibling relationships, while negative parent-child relationships lead to adversarial and competitive sibling relationships[54]. In a good parent-child relationship, young children learn how to handle problems and treat others warmly, applying these methods to sibling relationships, naturally forming good sibling relationships. Meanwhile, sibling relationships also affect the parent-child relationship. Some researchers have found that sibling quarrels and discord cause parental stress and concern, which may determine the overall emotional atmosphere or tone of the parent-child relationship and parents' attitudes towards their children[55]. This also supports the findings of this study: parent-child intimacy is significantly positively correlated with sibling intimacy, parent-child conflict is significantly negatively correlated with sibling intimacy, and significantly positively correlated with sibling conflict.

5.   Conclusions and Educational Recommendations

5.1   Conclusions

Parents' strategies for handling sibling conflicts are significantly positively correlated with sibling relationships. Child-centered strategies can lead to sibling intimacy, while parental control strategies and passive non-intervention strategies exacerbate sibling conflicts.

The parent-child relationship mediates the relationship between parents' strategies for handling sibling conflicts and sibling relationships: Parents' strategies for handling sibling conflicts are significantly positively correlated with the parent-child relationship, and the parent-child relationship is significantly positively correlated with sibling relationships. The parent-child relationship partially mediates the relationship between parents' strategies for handling sibling conflicts and sibling relationships. In other words, building a good parent-child relationship helps mitigate the adverse effects of improper parental strategies

for handling sibling conflicts, thereby establishing healthy sibling relationships and ensuring the normal operation of the family system.

5.2   Educational Recommendations

5.2.1   Parents Should Recognize Sibling Conflict

Siblings are important others in children's growth, providing warmth and companionship, compensating for parents' absence due to various reasons, while also potentially bringing unpleasantness or trouble. Research shows that the mean value of sibling intimacy (23.09) is higher than sibling conflict (12.65) for children aged 3-6, indicating that sibling relationships are generally intimate. In other words, siblings are a source of warmth for children. However, due to their limited problem-solving abilities, language skills, and sibling interaction abilities, conflicts are inevitable when interacting with siblings. Therefore, sibling conflict is an inevitable phenomenon in the development of sibling relationships. Parents should recognize or accept the existence of conflicts between children. When parents decide to have a second child, they should have certain expectations for the new family relationships, such as parent-child relationships and sibling relationships, which is an important factor in reducing parental anxiety or educational impotence.

Recognizing sibling conflict is a prerequisite for parents to handle sibling conflicts. Otherwise, parents will suppress or ignore conflicts between children, resulting in unresolved sibling conflicts, deteriorating sibling relationships, and affecting children's social behavior.

5.2.2   Parents Should Adopt Child-Centered Strategies to Handle Sibling Conflicts

Preschool children differ from children at other stages, requiring more companionship and guidance from adults. Therefore, it is necessary for parents to handle conflicts between their children. Mothers' strategies for handling sibling conflicts directly affect children's attitudes and ways of dealing with sibling conflicts[56]. This study found that the mean value of child-centered strategies for handling sibling conflicts is the highest (46.94), followed by parental control strategies (25.42), and passive non-intervention strategies are the lowest (16.74). In other words, parents generally adopt better strategies for handling sibling conflicts, with child-centered strategies being the most common, but control and passive non-intervention strategies still exist. According to the spillover hypothesis, how parents handle conflicts between children will be imitated by children in handling conflicts with siblings and peers, affecting children's social development. Rinaldi and Howe (1998) conducted a study with 34 fifth and sixth-grade students and found that warm sibling relationships are associated with prosocial behaviors and more constructive strategies[57]. This study's conclusions also apply to preschool children. Therefore, parents should adopt child-centered strategies to handle sibling conflicts.

Child-centered strategies view problems from the child's perspective. The first signal parents send to children is love, which helps children gain a sense of security and trust. Secondly, parents listen to children's voices and provide reasonable suggestions, not only correctly handling conflicts between siblings but also helping children understand the significance of siblings for their growth, thereby avoiding the growth of competition or rivalry for parental attention.

5.2.3   *Parents Should Build Good Parent-Child Relationships*

The parent–child relationship is the core of the family system. The earliest understanding of relationships comes from parents, such as love, security, and trust. As a key period for social development, the quality of the parent-child relationship during early childhood affects children's physical and mental development. Especially since the major changes in China's birth policy in 2016, family parent-child relationships have shifted from singular to diverse, posing significant challenges for constructing family parent-child relationships. Fortunately, this study found that parent-child intimacy (42.07) is higher than parent-child conflict (16.74), indicating that the parent-child relationship is generally warm. This is closely related to the improvement in parents' qualities in the new era. In other words, current parents pay more attention to building parent-child relationships. The value of good parent-child relationships for children's development has been recognized by many researchers. This study found that the parent-child relationship has certain mediating and moderating effects between parents' strategies for handling sibling conflicts and sibling relationships. The parent-child relationship can compensate for the adverse effects of improper parental strategies for handling sibling conflicts on sibling relationships. In other words, according to the compensation hypothesis of family system power, in a good parent-child relationship, children buffer the trauma caused by sibling conflicts with the intimacy and warmth from their parents, providing comfort to the child's soul.

In summary, parents should continuously improve their family education abilities, adopt scientific and effective measures to handle conflicts between children, and build good parent-child relationships, guiding children to correctly understand the value and significance of siblings for their growth, thereby establishing good sibling relationships and ensuring the normal operation of family relationships.

5.3   *Research Outlook*

In the new era, significant changes in China's family structure have made the interactions between various relationships within the family system important influencing factors for constructing a good family atmosphere and positively utilizing family functions. Therefore, research on family structure, family function, and family relationships has become the focus of scholars from various fields. This study aims to review the mutual influences between parent-child relationships and sibling relationships within the family, and how parents' strategies for handling sibling conflicts, an important manifestation of new sibling relationships, affect the family system. It constructs a theoretical model of these important relationships, providing important references for handling sibling conflicts and building good parent-child and sibling relationships in practice. However, there is still much room for future research on sibling relationships. For example, what impact does sibling relationships have on young children's social development? Especially for migrant and left-behind children, can sibling relationships compensate for the deficiencies in parental involvement in children's social development? Furthermore, do parental control and passive non-intervention strategies for handling sibling conflicts lead to poor social development in children, such as social withdrawal or avoidance? These questions will become important topics for future research.

Note

This article is translated from Volume 6, Issue 2 of *Theory and Practice of Social Science*.

Author Biography

Yuge YUE, Female, born in April 1981, from Changge City, Henan Province. Associate Professor at the School of Education, Ningde Normal University. Her research interests are early childhood education and family education. Correspondence address: Court Dormitory, 70-3 Jiaocheng South Road, Jiaocheng District, Ningde City, Fujian Province. Email: 416936096@qq.com https://orcid.org/0009-0008-8901-1617.

References

References

[1] Cicirelli, V.G., & Pillemer, K. Attachment Theory in Old Age: Protection of the Attached Figure, *Parent–Child Relations Across the Life Span*, Erlbaum, 1991, pp. 25-42.

[2] Noller, P. Sibling Relationships in Adolescence: Learning and Growing Together, *Personal Relationships*, 2005, 12(1), pp. 1-22.

[3] Conger, K.J., & Kramer, L. Introduction to the Special Section: Perspectives on Sibling Relationships Advancing Child Development Research, *Child Development Perspectives*, 2010, 4, pp. 69-71.

[4] Song, M. The Psychological Impact and Countermeasures of Having a Second Child on the Firstborn, *Education Guide (Second Half Month)*, 2015, 6.

[5] Buist, K.L., & Vermande, M. Sibling Relationship Patterns and Their Associations with Child Competence and Problem Behavior, *Journal of Family Psychology*, 2014, 28, pp. 529-537.

[6] Raffaelli, M. Young Adolescents' Conflicts with Siblings and Friends, *Journal of Youth and Adolescence*, 1997, 26(5), pp. 539-558.

[7] Smith, J., & Ross, H. Training Parents to Mediate Sibling Disputes Affects Children's Negotiation and Conflict Understanding, *Child Development*, 2007, 78, pp. 790-805.

[8] Katz, L.F., Kramer, L., & Cottman, J.M. Conflict and Emotions in Marital, Sibling, and Peer Relationships, *New York: Cambridge University Press*, 1992, pp. 122-149.

[9] Breitenstein, R.S., Doane, L.D., Clifford, S., & Lemery-Chalfant, K. Children's Sleep and Daytime Functioning: Increasing Heritability and Environmental Associations with Sibling Conflict, *Social Development*, 2018, 27(4), pp. 967-983.

[10] Xu, L., Tian, P., & Hong, X. The Impact of Mothers' Strategies for Handling Young Children's Sibling Conflicts on Sibling Relationships in Two-Child Families, *Journal of Capital Normal University (Social Science Edition)*, 2022, 04, pp. 162-172.

[11] Perozynski, L., & Kramer, L. Parental Beliefs About Managing Sibling Conflict, *Developmental Psychology*, 1999, 35(2), pp. 489-499.

[12] Kramer, L., Perozynski, L.A., & Chung, T.Y. Parental Responses to Sibling Conflict: The Effects of Development and Parent Gender, *Child Development*, 1999, 70, pp. 1041-1414.

[13] Xu, L., Tian, P., & Chen, S. The Impact of Parents' Strategies for Handling Sibling Conflicts on Sibling Relationships: The Chain Mediating Role of Parent-Child Relationships, *Youth and Children Research*, 2020, 06, pp. 56-62.

[14] Perozynski, L., & Kramer, L. Parental Beliefs About Managing Sibling Conflict, *Developmental Psychology*, 1999, 35(2), pp. 489-499.

[15] Kramer, L., Perozynski, L.A., & Chung, T.Y. Parental Responses to Sibling Conflict: The Effects of Development and Parent Gender, *Child Development*, 1999, 70, pp. 1041-1414.

[16] Bouchard, G., Plamondon, A., & Lachance-Grzela, M. Parental Intervention Style and Adult Sibling Conflicts: The Mediating Role of Involvement in Sibling Bullying, *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships*, 2018, 36(8), pp. 2585-2602.

[17] Kramer, L., Perozynski, L.A., & Chung, T.Y. Parental Responses to Sibling Conflict: The Effects of Development and Parent Gender, *Child Development*, 1999, 70, pp. 1041-1414.

[18] Tucker, C.J., & Kazura, K. Parental Responses to School-aged Children's Sibling Conflict, *Journal of Child and Family Studies*, 2013, 22(5), pp. 737-745.

[19] Perozynski, L., & Kramer, L. Parental Beliefs About Managing Sibling Conflict, *Developmental Psychology*, 1999, 35(2), pp. 489-499.

[20] Wang, Y., & Feng, W. Major Progress in Research on Parent-Child Relationships, *Chinese Journal of Special Education*, 2006, 07, pp. 77-83.

[21] Siegel, D.J., & Hartzell, M. Parenting from the Inside Out: How a Deeper Self-understanding Can Help You Raise Children Who Thrive, *New York: Penguin*, 2003.

[22] Zhang, X., Chen, H., Zhang, G., Zhou, B., & Wu, W. Dynamic Interaction Model of Parent-Child Relationships and Problem Behaviors: A Longitudinal Study of Early Childhood, *Acta Psychologica Sinica*, 2008, 40(5), pp. 12-40.

[23] Pinquart, M. Associations of Parenting Dimensions and Styles with Externalizing Problems of Children and Adolescents: An Updated Meta-analysis, *Developmental Psychology*, 2017, 53(5), pp. 873-932.

[24] Eltanamly, H., Leijten, P., Jak, S., & Overbeek, G. Parenting in Times of War: A Meta-analysis and Qualitative Synthesis of War Exposure, Parenting, and Child Adjustment, *Trauma Violence & Abuse*, 2019.

[25] Li, H. New Progress in Research on Parent-Child Relationships in China, *Theory and Practice of Education*, 2020, 17, pp. 19-22.

[26] Xu, L., Tian, P., & Hong, X. The Impact of Mothers' Strategies for Handling Young Children's Sibling Conflicts on Sibling Relationships in Two-Child Families, *Journal of Capital Normal University (Social Science Edition)*, 2022, 04, pp. 162-172.

[27] Dunn, J., & Kendrick, C. Social Behavior of Young Siblings in the Family Context: Differences Between Same-sex and Different-sex Dyads, *Child Development*, 1981, 52, pp. 1265-1273.

[28] Modry-Mandell, K.L., Camble, W.C., & Taylor, A.R. Family Emotional Climate and Sibling Relationship Quality: Influences on Behavioral Problems and Adaptation in Preschool-aged Children, *Journal of Child and Family Studies*, 2007, 16(1), pp. 59-71.

[29] Pike, A., Coldwell, J., & Dunn, J.F. Sibling Relationships in Early/Middle Childhood: Links with Individual Adjustment, *Journal of Family Psychology*, 2005, 19(4), pp. 523-532.

[30] Tompsett, C.J., Mahoney, A., & Lackey, J. Sibling Aggression Among Clinic-referred Children and Adolescents, *Journal of Clinical Child & Adolescent Psychology*, 2016, 47(6), pp. 1-13.

[31] Yu, J.J., & Gamble, W.C. Pathways of Influence: Marital Relationships and Their Association with Parenting Styles and Sibling Relationship Quality, *Journal of Child and Family Studies*, 2008, 17(6), pp. 757-778.

[32] Zhang, J. Research on Mothers' Strategies for Handling Sibling Conflicts, Sibling Relationships, and Young Children's Peer Interaction Behaviors, *Tainan: Tainan University*, 2010.

[33] Xu, L., Tian, P., & Chen, S. The Impact of Parents' Strategies for Handling Sibling Conflicts on Sibling Relationships: The Chain Mediating Role of Parent-Child Relationships, *Youth and Children Research*, 2020, 06.

[34] Furman, W., & Buhrmester, D. Children's Perceptions of the Qualities of Sibling Relationships, *Child Development*, 1985, 56, pp. 448-461.

[35] Zhu, J. The Impact of Sibling Relationships on Young Children's Social Development: The Mediating Role of Parenting Styles, *Hangzhou Normal University*, 2020, 06.

[36] Pianta, R.C. Child-Parent Relationship Scale, *Virginia: University of Virginia*, 1992, pp. 1-12.

[37] Zhang, X., Chen, H., Zhang, G., Zhou, B., & Wu, W. Dynamic Interaction Model of Parent-Child Relationships and Problem Behaviors: A Longitudinal Study of Early Childhood, *Acta Psychologica Sinica*, 2008, 12.40(5).

[38] Zhou, H., & Long, L.R. Statistical Test and Control Methods for Common Method Bias, *Advances in Psychological Science*, 2004, 12(6), pp. 942-950.

[39] Hayes, A. Introduction to Mediation, Moderation, and Conditional Process Analysis, *Journal of Educational Measurement*, 2013, 51(3), pp. 335-337.

[40] Wentzel, K.R. Friendships in Middle School: Influences on Motivation and School Adjustment, *Journal of Educational Psychology*, 2004.

[41] Chen, B., & Shi, Z. Parenting in Two-Child Families, *Advances in Psychological Science*, 2017, 25, pp. 1172-1181.

[42] Buist, K.L., Dekovic, M., & Prinzie, P. Sibling Relationship Quality and Psychopathology of Children and Adolescents: A Meta-Analysis, *Clinical Psychology Review*, 2013, 33, pp. 97-106.

[43] Chen, X.Y., Li, B.S., & Li, Z.Y. Research on Parent-Child Relationships, Social Behavior, and Peer Acceptance of Chinese Children, *Acta Psychologica Sinica*, 1995(3), pp. 329-336.

[44] Stocker, C.M., & Youngblade, L. Marital Conflict and Parental Hostility: Links with Children's Sibling and Peer Relationships, *Journal of Family Psychology*, 1999, 13, pp. 598-609.

[45] Kim, J.-Y., McHale, S.M., Osgood, D.W., & Crouter, A.C. Longitudinal Course and Family Correlates of Sibling Relationships from Childhood through Adolescence, *Child Development*, 2006, 77, pp. 1746-1761.

[46] Sun, L., & Zhang, A. Investigation of Sibling Relationships in Different Family Parenting Styles in Two-Child Families, *Shanghai Education Research*, 2018, 8, pp. 59-63.

[47] Kim, J.-Y., McHale, S.M., Osgood, D.W., & Crouter, A.C. Longitudinal Course and Family Correlates of Sibling Relationships from Childhood through Adolescence, *Child Development*, 2006, 77, pp. 1746-1761.

[48] Hoffman, K.L., Kiecolt, K.J., & Edwards, J.N. Physical Violence Between Siblings: A Theoretical and Empirical Analysis, *Journal of Family Issues*, 2005, 26(8), pp. 1103-1130.

[49] Chen, B., & Shi, Z. Parenting in Two-Child Families, *Advances in Psychological Science*, 2017, 25, pp. 1172-1181.

[50] Yu, J.J., & Gamble, W.C. Pathways of Influence: Marital Relationships and Their Association with Parenting Styles and Sibling Relationship Quality, *Journal of Child and Family Studies*, 2008, 17(6), pp. 757-778.

[51] Perlman, M., & Ross, H.S. The Benefits of Parent Intervention in Children's Disputes: An Examination of Concurrent Changes in Children's Fighting Styles, *Child Development*, 1997, 64(4), pp. 690-700.

[52] Rinaldi, C., & Howe, N. Siblings' Reports of Conflict and the Quality of Their Relationships, *Merrill-Palmer Quarterly*, 1998, 44(3), pp. 404-422.

[53] Zhang, J. Mothers' Strategies for Handling Sibling Conflicts, Sibling Relationships, and Young Children's Peer Interaction Behaviors, *Tainan: Tainan University*, 2010.