



The Relation Between Parent Competence and Parent-Child Interaction: A Consideration of Culture

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Introduction

- Parenting interventions have shown to be effective in improving the quality of parenting behaviors, reducing child behavior problems, and increasing overall family well-being
- The majority of parenting interventions are conducted with a focus on White and Western populations
- We aim to examine the relationship between parent-centered variables and parent-child interactions in English and Spanish speaking families

Methods

Participants

- 138 caregiver-infant dyads (0-3 years) were recruited from a larger intervention
- 67% (n=78) films contained interactions in Spanish, and 33% (n=38) were in English

Procedure

- Trained video coders coded films of parent-child interactions during freeplay with a detailed glossary and flowchart
- Codes were labeled as RZ, RY, or RX

Measures

- The Self-Efficacy Parenting Task Index (SEPTI)
- Parenting Distress (PD)
- Parenting Sense of Competence (PSOC) Scale

Table 1

Parent-outcomes Split by Language

| English | % RX | % RY | % RZ |
|--|-------|-------|--------|
| Parental Distress | -.173 | -.013 | .063 |
| SEPTI discipline/limit setting | .237* | -.210 | .095 |
| SEPTI Nurturance/valuing/empathetic responsiveness | .319* | .024 | -.125 |
| SEPTI Total | .280 | -.085 | .091 |
| Total PSOC Score | -.124 | .120 | -.079 |
| Spanish | | | |
| Parental Distress | -.063 | .263* | -.246* |
| SEPTI discipline/limit setting | .123 | -.011 | -.005 |
| SEPTI Nurturance/valuing/empathetic responsiveness | .117 | -.087 | .068 |
| SEPTI Total | .044 | -.101 | .091 |
| Total PSOC Score | -.065 | .145 | -.131 |

Table 1 shows the correlations between the assigned code and parenting measure split by language. Significant correlations of a parenting measure and level of reciprocal interaction ($p < .05$) for one linguistic group are in yellow. Nonsignificant correlation for the other linguistic group is in green.

Figure 1

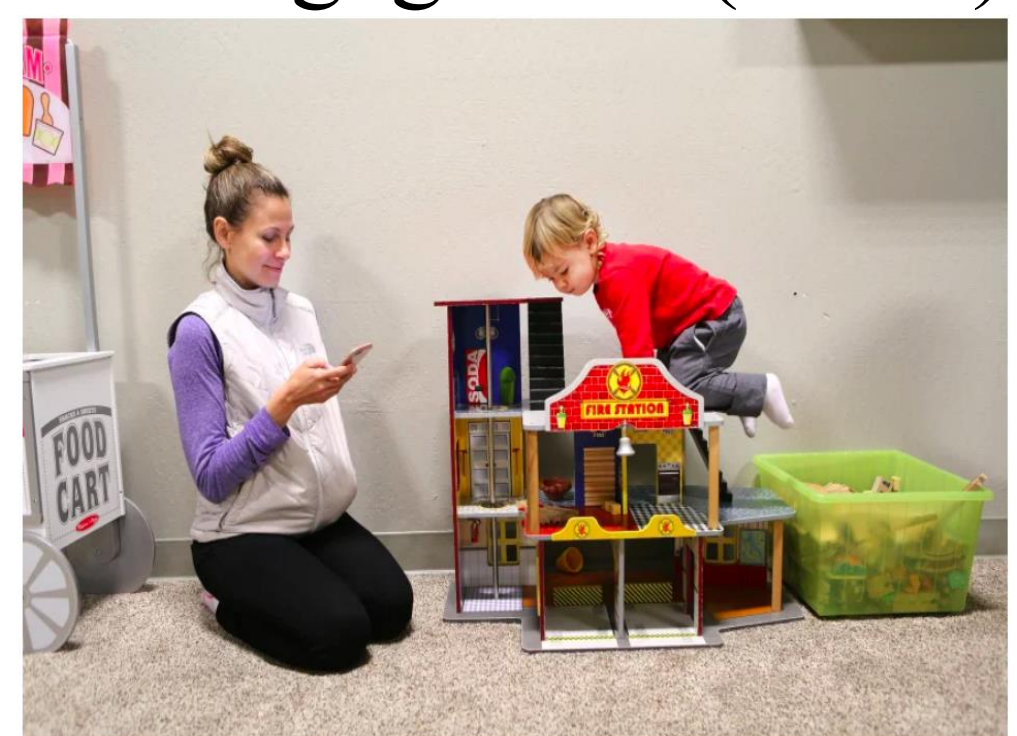
Levels of Reciprocity

Significant Communication ("RZ")



One full serve and return from each

No Engagement ("RX")



Parent or child is engaged with another object or person

Verbal Communication ("RY")



Mom serves but child does not return

Results

- When accounting for language, we found differences in baseline associations between parent self-rated scores and observed behavioral interactions for English and Spanish speaking families
- In Spanish speaking families:
 - PD was correlated with low reciprocity ($r(76) = .263, p < .05$) and negatively correlated with higher reciprocity ($r(76) = -.246, p < .05$)
- In English speaking families:
 - SEPTI nurturance ($r(76) = .319, p < .05$) and discipline/limit setting were significantly correlated with a lack of engagement between parent and child ($r(76) = .236, p < .05$)

Discussion

- This study highlights cultural differences between parents from these two groups and how it affects the way they interact with their children
- The study shows that linguistic differences do matter, and that cultural norms can influence parent-child relationships
- Future studies need to bear in mind the cultural factors of families when designing and implementing a parenting study
- The adaptation process needs to be a part of both measurement and design of interventions

References

Benito-Gomez, M., & Flores Rojas, K. (2020). Designing and Implementing Parenting Interventions With Latino Immigrant Families: Challenges and Strategies. *Families in Society: The Journal of Contemporary Social Services*, 101(4), 528-538. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1044389419897529>