

Socialization

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Socialization Socialization of Early Prosocial Behavior: Parents Talk About Emotions is Associated With Sharing and Helping in Toddlers

Brownell and other authors, in this article, established that parenting styles have direct influence on children and adolescents' prosocial behaviors.

Prosocial behaviors refer to any behavior that is intended to help or benefit an individual. Therefore, understanding, or empathy of another person's emotional and cognitive state, is one of the earliest precursors of his or her future prosocial behaviors. I agree with the authors that power-assertive or harsh discipline is negatively related to prosocial behaviors (Brownell et al. 2013). Similarly, other types of discipline that stress on the emotions of others promote prosocial behaviors and sympathy. Indeed, parenting styles such as secure attachment, responsiveness to distress, and warmth are positively related to children's prosocial behaviors; however, these authors have failed to find considerable relations between these two constructs.

Although our understanding of the relationship between social, for example parent socialization, and knowledge, for example, temperament, has significantly increased over the past three decades, Brownell and co-researchers suggest that we should also consider conceptual models, which assess how the environment differentially influences an individual's behavior over parsimonious models, which only consider the principle effects of these influences. For instance, these authors established that children who share and help quickly, particularly in tasks that require more complex emotional understanding, came from families where parents often asked them to explain and label the emotions they depicted from the books (Brownell et al. 2013). This is an indication that it is the parents' influence on their children's emotions that affects their prosocial behaviors, other than the parents' own

explanations and production of emotional labels. I, therefore, agree with the authors that it is the quality, but not the quantity of parents' talk about emotions with their children, that has positive effects on their children's early prosocial behavior.

Reference

Brownell et al. (2013). Gale Power Search-Document. Socialization of Early Prosocial Behavior: Parents Talk About Emotions is Associated With Sharing and Helping in Toddlers , 1-2.