

The Impact of Parents' Identification of Children's Interests on Children's Development--Taking Play Support as an Example

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Abstract: Children's interest is an important force for children to explore the world. The relationship between children's interests and children's development has been widely studied, but most people regard children's interests as a hook to promote children's academic achievements, choosing and creating interests for children from the perspective of adults. This study uses play as the analysis carrier to explore how parents' identification of children's interests reflected in the play activities will affect children's development in all aspects. This study shows that parents' identification of children's interests is still insufficient, and it is easy to view and judge children's interests from the perspective of adults. Based on this, this study puts forward the following suggestions: First, regard children as independent subjects, and respect children's choice rights and interest preferences. Second, parents should pay attention to forming a reasonable concept of education and effectively guide the development of children's interests. Third, provide a family environment suitable for children's development and create a harmonious and comfortable family atmosphere. Parents should deepen their identification of children's interests and respect children's dominant position to better stimulate children's positive interests and cultivate children's abilities in all aspects.

Keywords: Children's interest identity, children's development, play

1. Introduction

The cultivation of children's interests is one of the important aspects of family education, and it is also a topic of general concern in society. Interest is not only an important internal driving force to support personal development but also an important power to stimulate children's creativity and vitality, which is of great significance to children's personality development and life [1]. Li Hui studied the relationship between children's interest development and family education methods from the perspective of ecosystem theory and proposed that children's positive interest quality was related to factors such as a warm family atmosphere and family stability [2]. Jiang Hui summarized the concept and value of children's interests. She believed that children's interest was not only the purpose of early childhood education but also used as a teaching method. She stressed that attention should be paid to the instrumental value of children's interest in the teaching process, but also to the value of children's interest itself [3]. Existing studies focus on the impact of family, school, and society on children's interests in an ecological background. Most of them interpret children's interests from the perspective of educational methods and measures. They link interest with subjects, explore the impact

of children's interest on learning, and understand children's interest from the perspective of pragmatism, leading to a lack of understanding and support for children's interest. Many studies pay attention to the importance of interest to children's development, but few studies pay attention to interest identification, especially parents' identification of children's interests. Children are in the micro system of the family, and their interests are affected by various factors such as subjective and objective, spiritual and material factors of the family system [2]. As the guide of children's growth and development, parents should understand children's interests as the premise of cultivating children's interests to play a good role in children's development [1]. As one of the rights of children, play is the main form of activity for children to explore the world and stimulate interest. As a controversial teaching and lifestyle, play is also one of the ways children express their interests. Therefore, this study takes play as an example to study the impact of parents' interest identification on children's development and how parents should strengthen their interest identification on children. It is hoped that parents' attention to children's interests can be strengthened, and children's interests and development can be viewed from the perspective of the children's center to help children obtain the two-way growth of individuals and society.

2. Importance of Interest Identification

2.1. Cultivate a Harmonious and Democratic Parent-Child Relationship

Through equal and friendly communication with children, parents can know their children's current material or spiritual needs and understand their emotions and behaviors in pursuit of interests and hobbies. On the other hand, children can feel their parents' love from their parents' care for themselves, and know what worries parents have about their hobbies and interests. Understanding each other's concerns for themselves and understanding their needs and expectations can better reduce family conflicts and cultivate harmonious and democratic parent-child relationships. The children's interests perceived by parents are not completely consistent with the children's real interests. Parents often choose to cultivate children's interests that are valuable and beneficial to the development of children. When the interests chosen by parents for children conflict with the children's interests, the parent-child relationship will be destroyed to a certain extent [1].

2.2. Improve Children's Self-Identity

Parents strengthen their identification of children's interests, which expresses their affirmation and support for children's personal interests. Children will have a sense of sureness and believe that they can do more than they can. Children have more confidence about positive self-evaluation and their choice of interests. This is conducive to the development of children's self-awareness and self-worth. It plays a boosting role in children's self-confident use of independent choice and self-control ability [2]. When parents disapprove of children's interests, they will adopt negative strategies to prevent children from continuing to develop their interests [1]. Children can feel the rejection and unsupported attitude of their parents, they will criticize themselves, which attacks their self-confidence and sense of gain. In addition, parents' identification of children's interests can help children better explore and cultivate their interests to a certain extent. When children develop in their favorite areas of interest, they will be more confident in their abilities and potential and will know themselves in depth in the positive feedback of interests to improve their sense of self-identity.

2.3. Improve Family Education Guidance and Social Interaction

As an important subject of children's development, children's interest is a growing problem that parents must face. Understanding children's interests, respecting and recognizing children's choices,

and parents' guidance of children's interests in family education can better stimulate children's inner development motivation and cultivate children's interests into skills suitable for children's development. Children's contact and communication with peers with the same interests can not only deepen the understanding and mastery of this interest but also spontaneously exercise children's ability to communicate and express with others so that children can gain more confidence in social interaction and be more active, positive, and brave in social interaction. The in-depth discussion of interests deepens the feelings between children and their families, peers and other people in the society, and gives children more attempts and experience in social interaction [2].

3. Problems of Parents' Interest Identification--Taking Play as an Example

3.1. Misunderstanding of Play Value

Parents' understanding of children's play is not comprehensive enough, and there are some misunderstandings. As adults, it is difficult for parents to view the value of play from the perspective of a children's center. Parents choose to interpret the meaning of play for children only according to their understanding of play. When parents view the value of play to children from the perspective of adults, they pay more attention to the role of play in children's physical health and intellectual development. There exists a certain tendency of pragmatism and utilitarianism. Parents who hold the practical values of play will pay attention to the general value of play and ignore the cultivation of children's personality [4]. When education focuses on play as an activity, parents will worry about children's lack of academic learning and development [5]. Some parents believe that when participating in play, children must have the purpose of personal development or academic progress [6]. This idea of opposing children's play and learning and excessive pursuit of children's learning effectiveness often cannot fit children's real interests, making children unable to play freely and comfortably [7]. For example, children have a clear preference for sports, but parents' participation in children's outdoor sports games is low [1,8]. This shows that parents' expectations of children's play value and children's interests are biased, and it is easy to summarize children's favorite play types from their actual contact with children and their findings. On the basis of the limitation of children's autonomy in play, children can only make subjective inferences according to their parents' understanding of the value of play and the play that parents like. This overemphasizes the value of one aspect of play, which limits children's development in all areas.

3.2. Lack of Effective Play Participation and Guidance

Parents lack the attitude of respecting children's play and the ability to effectively guide them after participating in play. Especially in parent-child play, parents' play guidance ability is a direct factor affecting the quality of the play [9]. Parents' play investment, including parents' play time, play ability, and play attitude, affects parents' enthusiasm to participate in children's play to a certain extent and then affects parents' in-depth understanding of children's play and recognition of the interest orientation behind children's play choices [9]. Most parents choose the content and playing method of the play for their children and fail to realize that giving children full choices is more conducive to the development of children's interests [4]. Studies have shown that some parents will limit the length of children's play. Children's play is easily interrupted by parents for eating, rest, and other reasons. They will also compress the time of play because of extracurricular activities such as interest classes and training classes [7,8].

Influenced by many factors such as culture and society, fathers are more likely to assume the responsibility of making money to support the family, while mothers take more care of the family and are responsible for the education of their children, which makes fathers' participation in the play significantly lower than mothers' and the role of fathers' participation and guidance in the play cannot

be well played [7,10]. When parents lack effective guidance for children in the play, they will issue some ineffective instructions and encouragement and cannot make appropriate actions at the right time to feed back to children. Much of the encouraging language used by parents in play is repetitive and has no specific details, which makes children not know what behavior is worth encouraging and cannot effectively strengthen positive behavior. Parents cannot give children's play evaluation in time after the play, nor can they reflect on their guiding ability in the play [10]. Parents' insufficient participation in play and lack of corresponding guidance and reflection ability cannot well support children's play and hinder children's positive and healthy development.

3.3. Lack of Appropriate Play Support

Although the main subject of the play is children, parents are often the decision makers in the selection of children's play materials and environment. Parents do not provide children with sufficient opportunities to choose play. When parents are not familiar with children's play and are unwilling to learn, the play materials provided to children are mostly finished toys and electronic games [8]. Although parents are worried about children using too much screen time, due to the pressure of work and time problems, parents often use mobile phones, computers, and other electronic products as a way of leisure and entertainment. They can only use playing video games for children as a substitute to compensate for their lack of companionship [11]. Especially for parents with low socio-economic status, they are busy with work, have great pressure in raising children, and have little time for play. They often use adult-led play and do not have enough resources to provide suitable toys and environments for children [12]. Some studies have pointed out that parents' choice of play materials will be affected by gender differences. Girls are given more toys and art-related materials to symbolize play, and boys are given materials to construct play, which limits the opportunities for children to play freely and suppresses the space for children to develop their talents [9]. When parents participate in parent-child sports games, they will also be limited by the lack of sports venues and children's safety concerns [13].

4. Suggestion

4.1. Regard Children as Independent Subjects and Respect their Rights of Choice and Preferences

Parents need to observe and listen to children more, know and understand children more comprehensively, and explore children's potential [1]. Parents should regard children as independent subjects, give children the right and freedom of appropriate interest and choice, and develop an equal and democratic parent-child relationship with children. Parents' cultivation of positive interests plays an important role in the development of children's interests, and they should protect the rights required by children's development and meet the necessary needs of children's development [2]. Every child is a unique individual. Parents need to take children as the center, stand in the position of children, establish the concept of respecting children's differences, understand and tolerate children's choices of interest, and respect and encourage children's interest development. In the face of children's different interests and hobbies, parents should give priority to guidance, communicate with children equally, not label children's interests as worthless, not force children's curiosity and desire to explore, recognize the general laws and special needs of children's development, and encourage children to pursue their favorite interests.

4.2. Form Reasonable Educational Concepts and Effectively Guide the Development of Children's Interests

Parents should strengthen self-education and self-reflection, cultivate healthy and reasonable education concepts, take children's interests as the guide to explore children's talents and abilities, set an example for children, and effectively guide the development of children's interests. In the process of cultivating children's interests, parents should reflect on their behavior and feelings, avoid the judgment of pragmatism on children's interests, and provide supportive help for children. As a member of the family, the father's interests have a far-reaching impact on the development of children's interests. Parents can adjust traditional ideas, strengthen the guiding role of fathers in children's interests, and balance the roles of fathers and mothers in education [2]. Parents should strengthen their communication with children, teachers, and children's peers to understand children's interests more comprehensively [1]. Parents can cooperate with teachers to learn relevant knowledge of children's interests, master effective methods to guide children's interest development, give positive support to children, and promote children's all-around development. Parents can also make full use of community resources to obtain relevant knowledge about children's interests through information channels such as libraries and online platforms.

4.3. Provide an Educational Environment Suitable for Children's Development

Parents should create a good material and spiritual environment for children to stimulate and develop their interests through various channels and ways. Parents should create a family environment of gender equality for children, put materials reasonably, and set restrictions on operating materials and activity places not based on gender stereotypes to help children explore different interests and find more possibilities [14]. Parents should also set an example, protect and develop their interests and hobbies, and take children to the outside world. It is not limited to electronic entertainment but creates time and opportunities for children to practice and provides children with opportunities to contact and develop their interests [1]. A warm and harmonious family atmosphere can promote the stable and extensive development of children's interests, so parents should respect children's subjectivity, create a safe psychological environment suitable for their development, and create a harmonious and happy growth atmosphere [2].

5. Conclusions

Interest is the driving force for children to perceive and explore the world. Parents, as companions and guides on children's growth path, play a vital role in children's development. This study summarizes the influence of parents' identification of children's interests, including the formation of harmonious and democratic parent-child relationships, the improvement of children's self-identity, the effective improvement of family education and guidance, and the improvement of social communication ability. Taking play as an example, the study found that parents' problems in interest identification included misunderstanding of the value of games, lack of effective game participation and guidance, and lack of appropriate game support such as game materials and environment. Finally, from the perspective of parents, some suggestions are put forward: regard children as independent subjects and respect children's rights of choice and interests; Form a reasonable concept of education, effectively guide the development of children's interests; Provide an educational environment suitable for children's development and create a harmonious and happy growth atmosphere. It is hoped that parents can strengthen the identification of children's interests in family education, enhance the effectiveness of parents' support for children's growth and development, and promote children's healthy and happy growth.

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