Inter-generational Transfer of Parenting Styles

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What are Parenting Styles?
There are three main parenting styles used in this research study:
- Authoritative: Parents set limits and are flexible.
- Authoritarian: High behavioral standards, and little communication.
- Permissive: High nurturance and communication but little discipline, guidance, or control.

Research Problem
The inter-generational transfer of parenting styles can potentially lead to negative effects on child development or stimulate healthy parenting styles being inter-generationally from their own parents.

Research Question & Hypothesis
Research Question: How do parenting styles and the associated parenting strategies in a sample of on-site child care parents transfer inter-generationally from their own parents?
Hypothesis: We predicted that parents would use the same parenting strategies that are associated with the parenting style that they perceived their parents used.

Purpose of the Study
1. Determine if there are current parenting factors that are associated with the inter-generational transmission of parenting styles.
2. Develop a reliable survey instrument.
3. Increase the knowledge for professionals who are able to inform parents on how to avoid transference of negative parenting styles that affect child development.

Literature Review
Gfroerer et al. (2011) closely examined how personality affects parenting styles. Scharf and Mayseless (2011) The study found attachment between the participants and their parents played an important role in the prediction of parenting styles adopted.

Kitamura et al. (2009) examined relationships between parenting styles being inter-generationally transmitted and whether it would be mediated by personality. Kovan et al. (2009)


Dependent Variables
- PEW (I usually show affection when interacting with my child)
- PED (I seldom discipline my child for behavioral misconduct)
- PEE (I allow my child to behave in a silly child like manner)
- PEC (My child is usually able to communicate with me clearly and consistently)
- ATE (I have moderate expectations that my child will act in a mature manner appropriate to their age)
- ATE (I have high behavioral standards for my child)
- ANC (My child seldom initiates conversation with me)

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Pearson Correlation Matrix

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Conclusion
Generations can be changed positively when made aware of the research through the help of family scientists and practitioners. This research further supports the Social Learning Theory, and offers support to the idea that modeling shapes individuals throughout a childhood of watching and listening to the behaviors of their parents (Sincero, 2011).