

Abstract

Parent-child relationships are known to impact child behavior; however, there is limited research studying the correlation between parent-child relationships and children's behavior towards others in the Latinx community. The present study aimed to examine the impact of an emotionally nurturing parent-child relationship and children's positive (the child is considerate of others) and negative (the child bullies others) towards others in Latinx families. The present study was a secondary cross-sectional data analysis from the data collected in the Children, Families, and Schools Project. Results revealed a positive correlation between parent nurturance and a child's considerate behavior. On the contrary, parent nurturance was not found to influence fighting or bullying behavior. Additionally, children who received parental affection demonstrated to exhibit thoughtful behaviors towards others and display lower levels of bullying behaviors. Lastly, parental encouragement to express affection was found not to be associated with a child's display of considerate or bullying behaviors. Overall, the results support that an emotionally nurturing parent-child relationship influences child behavior. Further research is needed to address the existing gap in parent-child relationships and child behaviors in Latinx families.

Introduction

Significance of Study

- There is limited research studying the correlation between parent-child relationships and children's behavior towards others in the Latinx community.

Purpose of Research

- To progress the current understanding of the impact an emotionally nurturing parent-child relationship has on children's positive and negative behaviors towards others in Latinx families

Research Questions

- What is the impact of an emotionally nurturing parent-child relationship and children's positive (e.g., the child is considerate to others) and negative behaviors (e.g., the child bullies others) towards others in Latinx families?
 - What is the relationship between a parent-child relationship/bond and children being considerate of others?
 - What is the relationship between a parent-child relationship/bond and children bullying others?

Hypothesis

- (H1) Children who have a stronger parent-child relationship will exhibit more considerate behaviors towards others.
- (H2) Children who have a poorer parent-child relationship will exhibit higher bullying behaviors

Literature Review

- The quality of attachment, parenting practices, and parenting styles were found to influence the overall quality of parent-child relationships (Ackard et al., 2006; Davidson & Cardemil, 2009; Georgiou & Stavrinides, 2013).
- Low levels of emotional support, lack of communication, and punitive child-rearing practices were found to be correlated with lower quality levels of parent-child relationships, thus leading to higher levels of negative child behaviors (Georgiou & Stavrinides, 2013; Baldry & Farrington, 2000).
- Secure attachment, good communication, and high levels of responsiveness and connectedness were linked to higher quality levels of parent-child relationships, thus leading to higher levels of displayed positive child behaviors (Ackard et al., 2006; Rajendran et al., 2016)
- The Hispanic population is proven to be the largest ethnic minority in the U.S (U.S. Census Bureau, 2018) yet there is limited research studying Latinx parenting and child behavior.

Methods

Research Design

- The present study was a secondary analysis of the cross-sectional data collected in the Children, Families, and Schools Project.
- Surveys (pre & post) and administrative record data were methods of data collection used in the original study.

Sample

- Original sample was composed of parents and teachers of first-grade children and students from 52 elementary schools located in San Antonio, Texas (n=26), and Phoenix, Arizona (n=26).
- 3,084 first-grader parents were the participants of this study. 52.1% (n=1,607) located in the city of San Antonio, Texas, and 47.9% (n=1,477) located in Phoenix, Arizona.
- The present study uses a subsample from the data obtained in cohort one and year one of the parent post-survey from the original three-year longitudinal study.
- 2,273 first-grade parents identified as Hispanic

Measures

Independent Variable: Nurturing and Emotionally Parent

- Measure by self-rated questions using a 5 point Likert-Scale
- "I am a nurturing parent"
- "I have trouble expressing my affection"
- "I encourage my child to express emotion"

Dependent Variable: Child Behavior

- Measured by self-reported questions using a 3 point Likert-scale
- "My child is considerate of other people's feelings"
- "My child fights or bullies other children"

Results

- Chi-Square tests was used to test the relationship between the independent variable of a nurturing and emotionally available parent and the dependent variable of child behavior resulting in a total of six Chi-Square analysis.

Considerate Behavior

Parent Nurturance:

- Chi-Square analysis found a significant relationship between a nurturing parent and a child's considerate behavior ($\chi^2(2) = 7.02$, $p < .030$), while phi statistics suggested a strong relationship (.069).

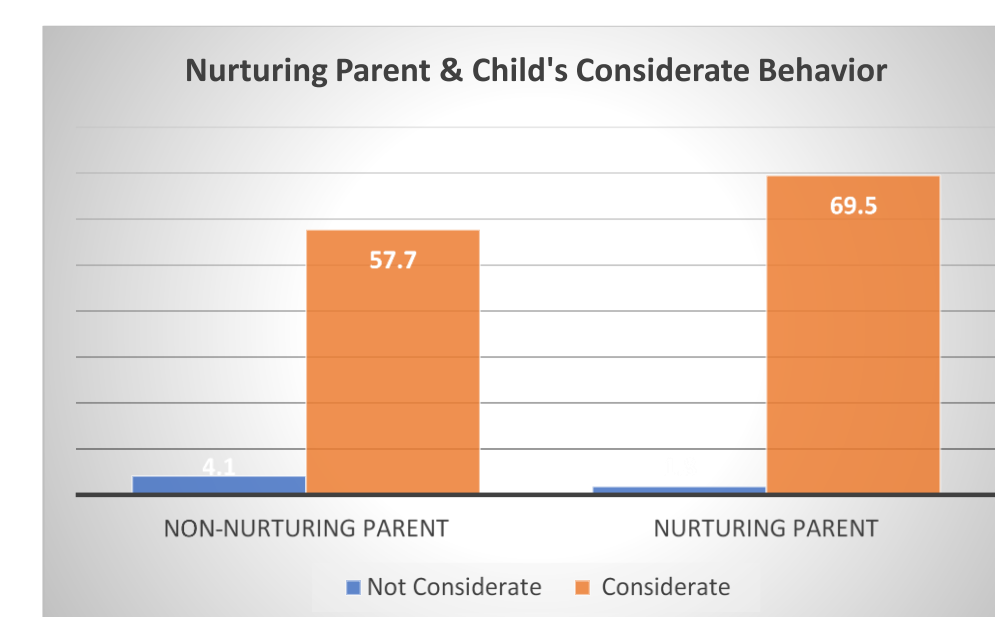


Figure 1. Relationship between a nurturing parent and a child's considerate behavior.

Affectionate Parent:

- Analysis revealed a significant correlation between a parent's ability to express affection and a child's considerate behavior ($\chi^2(2) = 24.8$, $p < .01$), while phi statistics suggested a weak correlation (.130).

Chi-Square Analysis Testing the Relationship between a Parent's Ability to Express Affection and Child's Considerate Behaviors towards Others

	Child's Behavior: Consideration to other People's Feelings % (n)	
	Not True	Certainly True
Trouble Expressing Affection*		
Express Affection	1.8 (21)	71.6 (833)
Trouble Expressing Affection	3.2 (10)	56.8 (175)

* $p < .01$

Parental encouragement to express emotion:

- Chi-Square analysis demonstrated that there was no significant relationship between a parent's encouragement of the child to express emotion and the child's consideration towards other people's feelings ($\chi^2(2) = 2.97$, $p = .226$).
- Frequencies of the child's consideration towards others were similar between parents who encouraged the expression of emotions and parents who did not.

Chi-Square Analysis Testing the Relationship between Parents' Encouragement of the Child to Express Emotion and Child's Consideration towards Others

	Child's Behavior: Consideration to other People's Feelings % (n)	
	Not True	Certainly True
Encouragement to Express Emotion*		
Not Encouraging	3.9 (4)	62.7 (64)
Encouraging	2.0 (27)	69.2 (951)

Bullying Behavior

Parent Nurturance:

- Chi-Square analysis found there was no significant relationship ($\chi^2(2) = 3.70$, $p = .157$) between being a nurturing parent and a child's fighting or bullying behavior towards others.
- Frequencies of the child's fighting or bullying behavior towards others were similar between nurturing and non-nurturing parents.

Chi-Square Analysis Testing the Relationship between Nurturing Parents and Child's Fighting or Bullying Behavior Towards Others

	Child's Behavior: Fights or Bullies Others % (n)	
	Not True	Certainly True
Nurturing Parent*		
Not Nurturing	71.4 (70)	3.1 (3)
Nurturing	78.7 (1,082)	3.6 (49)

Affectionate Parent:

- Results indicated a significant relationship was found between a parent's ability to express affection and a child's fighting or bullying behavior towards others ($\chi^2(2) = 20.3$, $p < .01$), while phi statistics suggested a weak correlation (.118).

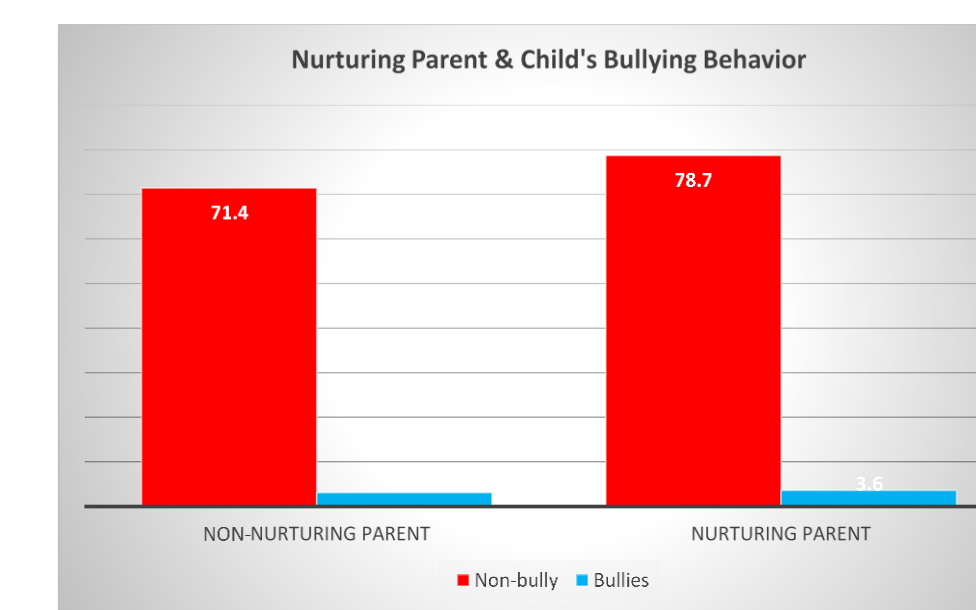


Figure 2. Relationship between a nurturing parent and a child's bullying behavior.

Parental encouragement to express emotion:

- Results determined there was no significant relationship ($\chi^2(2) = 1.51$, $p = .469$) between a parent's encouragement to express emotions and a child's fighting or bullying behavior.
- Frequencies of child bullying behavior were similar among parents who encouraged the expression of feelings and parents who did not.

Express Emotion and Child's Consideration towards Others

	Child's Behavior: Consideration to other People's Feelings % (n)	
	Not True	Certainly True
Encouragement to Express Emotion*		
Not Encouraging	82.4(84)	3.9(4)
Encouraging	78(1072)	3.4(47)

Discussion

Summary of Findings

- Significant and insignificant results between a nurturing and emotionally available parent and child behavior were found.
- Parent nurturance was found to have a positive correlation to a child's considerate behavior but was negatively linked to a child's fighting or bullying behavior.
- Parental affection was found to be correlated to a child's exhibit of thoughtful behaviors towards others, along with a display of lower child bullying behaviors.
- Parental encouragement to express affection was found to not be associated with a child's display of considerate or bullying behaviors.

Implications for Research and Practice

- This study's key findings and the Hispanic population being the largest minority in the U.S. highlights the need for future research to focus on studying the impact of a parent-child relationship and child's behavior in the Latinx population.
- Findings gathered can be considered when developing or modifying parent education programs.
- The study's results puts emphasis on the importance and need for early intervention.

Strengths and Limitations

- The study's strengths includes its contribution to the limited existing literature regarding the correlation of a parent-child relationship and child behaviors in Latinx families.
- The study's limitations includes solely utilizing caregiver self-report & self-rated responses when assessing for child behavior, schools being selected by the school district, and gathering samples only from two locations, thus lacking generalizability outside of Phoenix, Arizona, and San Antonio, Texas.

References

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