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**Abstract**

Mediating effects of parenting behaviors on parent-child correlates with self-esteem

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Self-esteem is a concept that is strongly related to mental health. Low self-esteem in children can lead to maladjustment in the family as a whole. Therefore, intervening in the determinants of self-esteem is recommended in order to increase it. In this study, we focused on the self-esteem of parents as a factor that determines children's self-esteem. We also focused on the parents' parenting behaviors and the children's perception of them as factors mediating the relationship between parent-child self-esteem. We analyzed the data of 539 triads of junior high school students and their parents, using structural equation modeling. The results suggested that mothers' "positive responsiveness" (positive and empathic responses to children's behaviors and requests) and "severe scolding and physical punishment" mediate the mother-child relationship in terms of self-esteem. In other words, mothers' self-esteem may mediate their positive responsiveness/severe reprimand/physical punishment and the child's perception of it, and may increase/lower children's self-esteem. This suggests that parent training, in which caregivers learn "effective ways of praising and scolding their children," is effective.

**Keywords:** self-esteem, parenting attitude, parent-child data

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