

# Effects of the Attitude of Parents in Children's Learning Attitude

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**Abstract:** The purpose of this study is to clarify how to engage parents in improving their children's attitude for active learning. According to Imabayashi (1987), if children understand their parent's discipline, then the children's motivation is high. However, until now, the relationship between parents who support their children's learning such as in career counseling, and the child's willingness to learn, has not been researched.

The author administered a questionnaire to 50 university students in Japan. This questionnaire asked students how their parents interacted with them and their attitude for learning when they were school age. The author identified that if children had opportunities to discuss their report cards with their parents in elementary or junior high school, they always tended to be more motivated to achieve high scores in school. Therefore, this research suggests that parents' contact with children when they are in elementary or junior high school is important.

**Keywords:** Parent, Children, Attitude

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this research is to clarify how to engage parents to improve their children's attitude for active learning. This paper will examine how parents interacted with their children and how it affected their children's attitude for active learning.

Children's academic ability was found to be related to the economic power of their parents. According to the Ministry of Education, after administering questionnaires to elementary and junior high school students, children with high home income and parents with higher educational background tended to have above average rate of correct answers for each subject on tests in the National Achievement and Study Status Survey in 2013.

Academic ability also related to motivation for active learning, according to Tatsuno (1977). Evidence shows that the more motivated students are to learn, the higher their academic performance will be. From these results the author believes that if children's motivation for active learning can be improved, without spending additional funds, children's abilities will not depend on the economic power of parents, but only on their educational background.

According to Imabayashi (1987), if children understand their parent's discipline, the children's motivation is high. However, the relationship

between parents who support their children's learning such as in career counseling, and the child's willingness to learn, has not been researched. Therefore, the author would like to conduct further research into this area

## 2. RESEARCH DESIGN & METHODS

### 2.1 Subject

In this study, subjects are 50 university students in Japan, who responded to the question items on the questionnaire.

### 2.2 Content

In this study, the author defines the "willingness to learn" as the act of students studying voluntarily. The author distributed a questionnaire about parents' behavior and students' attitude. The questionnaire asked students how their parents interacted with them and their attitude for learning when they were school age.

### 2.3 Procedure

Using correlation analysis for each question item, the author examined how parents' engagement with students when they were younger could improve the students' motivation for active learning.

Results of the questionnaire shown in Table 1.

### 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Results of the questionnaire showed the following: Children who had been encouraged to study by their parents when they were elementary school student or junior high school students tended not to dislike studying. ( $x^2 = 3.191$ ,  $df = 1$ ,  $0.05 < P < 0.1$ )

When deciding on a career, the child whose parents respected their opinions was conscious of always gaining a high evaluation in grades at elementary school or junior high school ( $x^2 = 3.865$ ,  $df = 1$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ).

If children had opportunities to discuss their report cards with their parents in elementary or junior high school, they always tended to be more motivated to achieve high scores in school. ( $x^2=3.848$ ,  $df=1$ ,  $0.05 < p < 0.1$ )

If children had parents who respected their opinions about their careers, they often tended to study more. ( $x^2=3.865$ ,  $df=1$ ,  $p < 0.05$ )

In questions about how parents treated their children, "when I was in elementary or junior high school, I was asked to study by my parents," and in the question about the child's willingness to learn, there was a significant correlation between studying and not hating it.

In the question about how parents treated their children and whether parents respected their opinions when deciding on the course of their school or junior high school, "you often studied, regardless of the regular tests." There was a significant correlation. (See Table 1.)

Table 1. Questionnaire Results

	A	B	C	D	E
1. You had the opportunity to discuss grades and careers with your parents.	3.48**	.351*	1.62*	0.554*	1.34*
2. You had the opportunity to study with your parents.	1.03*	.059*	.051*	.031*	.598*
3. You were encouraged to study hard by your parents.	2.38*	.151*	3.19**	.924*	.087*
4. Your parents respected your opinions when deciding on a career	2.49**	1.05*	.609*	.031*	3.86***
5 You felt that you parents valued your graduating from school.	.636*	.04*	.443*	.044*	.044*

\*\*\*=  $p < 0.05$

\*\*=  $0.05 < p < 0.1$

\*=  $0.1 < p < 1$ ;

(A) You studied regardless of the test

(B) You wanted to take class notes neatly.

(C) You did not dislike studying.

(D) You had the habit of reading newspapers and books.

(E) You were conscious of always obtaining a high evaluation in your grades in school

### 4. CONCLUSION

From analysis of the results, the author believes that parents' involvement in children's grades and career choices affects their child's learning attitude. In addition, the child's learning attitude can improve by parents' respecting their children's opinion.

To decide on a career by children is factor to improve their motivation for active learning.

Moreover, it is thought that opportunity to study with your parents is effective to sustain an enhanced desire of learning.

Having the opportunity to study with parents can help children be better aware of the purpose of studying. As a result, children's motivation for active learning improves.

### 5. REFERENCES

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