

The Mediating Role of Social Perception in the Relationship between Mother-Child Interaction and Social Skills, as Perceived by Mothers of Preschool-Age Children

Rezapour Mirsaleh, Y., et al.

Extended Abstract

Aim

The purpose of this study was to investigate the mediating role of social perception in the relationship between mother-child interaction and preschoolers' social abilities.

Method

In 2020, the statistical population included mothers of preschool-aged children in the city of Naeen; 179 mothers were sampled using the available sampling method. The inclusion criteria included parental consent, the presence of both parents, cohabitation with both parents, and an age range between 5 and 6 years. The exclusion criteria were the presence of a specific psychiatric disorder in a parent or child, as well as the child's disability. The data collected using the social skills questionnaire (SSRS), the mother-Preschool Child Interaction Questionnaire (MPCIS), and the Social Understanding Scale (CSUS) were analyzed using structural equation analysis by AMOS software.

Findings

The participants' mean age and standard deviation were 33.55 and 7.52 years, respectively. 99 females gave birth to daughters (55.3%), while 80 gave birth to sons (44.7%). To analyze the proposed model, structural equation modeling was performed. Figure 1 demonstrates that the direct path coefficient of mother-child interaction to social skills ($\beta=0.56$) and child's social perception ($\beta=0.52$) is positive and statistically significant. The direct path coefficient between a child's social perception and social skills ($\beta=0.23$) is also significant and positive ($p<0.05$). The bootstrap method was utilized to examine the indirect relationship between mother-child interaction and social skills via the child's social perception. The results revealed that the indirect path of mother-child interaction to social skills via the child's social perception is significant ($\beta=0.12$, $p=0.02$).

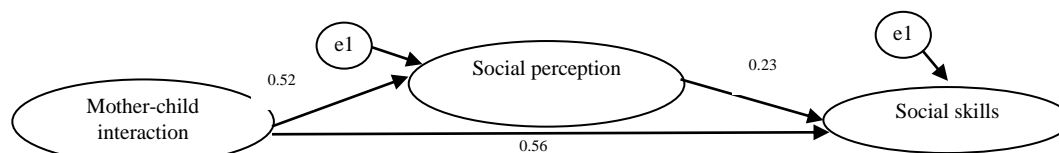


Fig. 1: Structural relationship between mother-child interaction, social perception and social skills

Discussion

On the basis of the findings, it can be concluded that not only does mother-child interaction directly explain the child's social skills, but it can also indirectly enhance the child's social skills by enhancing the child's social perception. Consequently, if the mother-child interaction and social relationships are enhanced through psychotherapeutic interventions, children's social perception will also be enhanced. To evaluate the effect of mother-child interaction on children's social perception, experimental studies are suggested.

Keywords: Social Perception, Mother-Child Interaction, Social Skills.