

The Influences from the Father Bring to the Children with Autism

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Abstract. Even though the importance of parents brings to children with autism is apparent, the influence of fathers on them is lacking. this paper aims to analyze the main problems of children with autism development in language and communication development and social relationship development, including difficulties in understanding, accepting, and using language skills and low positive relationships creating inferior quality interaction. According to previous research, the father could increase children's sense of security, and adjust the language used to satisfy the emotional availability (EA) level. In the language area, the father chooses to use a simplified speech register and uses challenging language modules or complex vocabulary with the children. The response pattern of the father is more likely the same as adults in society which bring the challenge to children. The overall language output from the interaction between father and children is significantly less than the interaction between mother and children but there is no significant difference between the mother in question using and information requesting. Fathers will provide more opportunities to children and keep sensitive during the activity for making sure children could explore the challenge in safety, which will significantly reduce the number of children with autism who produce behavior problems. This article could provide references to the relevant research field of fathers' affection for children with autism in early childhood. Future research can adopt more field visit observation strategies to collect data, which could increase the honesty and integrity of the data.

Keywords: Father; Children with autism; Influence; Development.

1. Introduction

Compared with the role of the father as a family financial provider, the research on the role of the father as the main children's caregiver is significantly limited, even much less in the area of children with autism. Even though the attachment between father and children is important and will bring a huge positive influence on the children, the past majority focus on the object is always the mother instead the father. Following the social situation and family structure keeping change recently, an increasing number of couples employed families appear, which makes taking care of children not a single job for mothers only, and the father will need to contribute more in the interaction and communication with children with autism.

Right now, the majority of the research about parents influencing targets is unilateral, because the researchers do not always consider the father as the main caregiver of children but assume the father as the assistant to the caregiver or temporary babysitter. Even though the mother still spends more time parenting children directly than the father, it does not mean in the same amount of parenting time that the father will bring fewer influences or be less important to the children than the mother [1]. Also, compared with the mother, the overall children caring time of the father is limited to reasonable to reveal the significant influences that the father brings to the children. The influences of the fathers' language pattern on the children with autism focuses on the main differences in language style, word choice, communication strategies, activity choice, and interaction patterns between the role of the father and mother during children's care to illustrate the importance of the father's contribution to children with autism life. The beginning of this article will introduce the children with autism manifestation which includes the meaning and inheritance of autism about behaviors, social communication, and genetics information with the problems in social relationship development. The following content will include the influences of fathers on children with autism the influences on emotion, sense of security, and language communicative development. The following part will

discuss the reason why the father could provide those influences to their children with autism by talking about the contribution of the father in the activity choice, their language pattern, language output, and language questioning. Indirect influence from the father to the mother is important and it will bring influence the children with autism's future development.

2. Children with Autism Manifestation

2.1 Autism Meaning, Manifestation, and Inheritance

The representative characteristics of children with autism include social communication disorder, repetitive stereotyped behaviors, and limited interest [2]. The main manifestation of the difficulty of people with autism in social communication is that cannot produce empathy and emotional reciprocity and hard to build relationships or friendships with people. For example, "I could not understand what they talking about, and sitting with them makes me feel awkward and embarrassed. So, I decided to keep silent and ready to go." The manifestation of the repetition of stereotyped behaviors in people with autism is repetitive self-stimulated movements, such as rub hairs and eyebrows, pacing in a limited area by following a particular trace, and knocking or tapping a chair or table in a specific pattern. People with autism could benefit from repetitive behaviors and self-stimulated movement, which could help them maintain concentration on a specific target, also, the self-stimulated movement could make them calm down as much as possible in habituation; the fixed movement pattern brings the psychological suggestion to themselves that the world is predictable and handleable [2]. The causes of autism are still unknown, but it is highly hereditary. The autism concordance rate in identical twins is 98% and 67% in fraternal twins [2].

2.2 Problems on Development

2.2.1 Language and communication development

Language communication development majority shown in the domain of appropriate use or interpretation of verbal and non-verbal language in the relevant social pragmatic communication situation [3]. There are some pragmatic communication problems accompanying the language communication development of children with autism. The effects are impaired in the semantic and pragmatics used during the talk, such as receptive difficulties in the conversation, which means children with autism have difficulties correctly and acutely understanding, listening, and interpreting the meaning of the sentences they just heard, lacking the communication skills, which means the children with autism have difficult on changing their words choice or use the phraseologies to embellish their sentences to achieve their purpose of speaking, and more pedantic style of speech, such as abundant monologue [3].

2.2.2 Social relationship development

Compared with non-disabled children, children with autism need to face bigger pressure to build relationships with others. Children with autism have less successful in building positive relationships with their teachers [4]. The main difficulties of children with autism building positive relationships with others are the ability to participate jointly with others, such as they could not paying attention in time to something others paying attention, and children with autism cannot provide quality and quantity interaction, such as raising up too many questions [5].

3. Father's Influences

3.1 Father Influence Emotional Development of Children with Autism

3.1.1 Father increases child sense of security

The majority of research about the family's influence on children with autism is focused on the role of the mother instead of the function of the father, however, the influence of the father's

participation in the life of children with disabilities is nonnegligible [6]. The attachments that appear between fathers and children with autism in the early relationship decide the sense of security of children with autism at 1 year old [7]. If the father spends more time with children with autism with more affection at 3-month-olds, children with autism will show a higher sense of security [7].

3.1.2 Father-Child emotional availability (EA)

Emotional Availability (EA) is a structure of the relationship between children and their parents, which determines the emotional quality of parenthood and interaction. During the interaction with children, compared with the mother, the father shows lower sensitivity and could not bring the same positive level of influence in the interaction [8]. However, in the interaction between parents and children with autism, the father and mother both show the same EA level, which means even though the father usually will not bring the same level of sensitivity and positive influence to children as the mother, the children with autism family, the father may be trying to compensate to achieve the level of Emotional Availability as familiar as the mother, which means the father will perceive the demand of children with autism and based on the need to adjust the strategies using in the interactions [8]. Self-adjust of the father in the interaction with their children with autism is the reason why even the mother has higher sensitivity than the father, but the EA level of the mother and father still maintain in the same.

3.2 Father Influence Emotional Development of Children with Autism

3.2.1 Manifestation

The language use of the fathers to their children could significantly support children's vocabulary development [9]. The strategy for data used in the research conducted by Flippin and Crais [9] is a literature search through three processes to identify. First, search the database about English language research about parents intervening with their children with ASD from 1990 to 2010. Second, use keywords, including parent, autism, training, intervention, after, and mother to search the related research and put the selected article in the reference list. Then, to make sure the additional studies are not included in the previous search, checked the reference list from relevant studies of three research about parent training for children with ASD [9]. The result finds out that, in fact, the vocabulary that the father used when children at 24 months could forecast children's language performance level at 36 months. The language output is bidirectional, which means when the father uses challenging language modules or complex vocabulary with children, the children will choose to use high-level language during the conversation with the father, such as longer and more complex utterances and more advanced narratives [9]. Communication between fathers and children with autism could support their communicative and language development by clearly understanding how the communicative signal influence others could and understanding how important and necessary to clarify misunderstood information to others [9].

3.2.2 Mechanism of father language

Comparing the father and mother's language input to the children, the father and mother both will adjust their language form to adopt the form that the children use, however, the influences on language that the father brings to the children is because the father employs a simplified speech register and choose to use higher pitch during speaking [10].

4. Why the Father could Provide Influences

4.1 The Contribution of Father in the Activity Choice

Compared to the mother, the father is more possible and has more opportunities to keep sensitive and the ability to quickly respond to provide a sense of security for children in their early attachment [11]. Different from the mother, the father gives more hugs to the children during playtime, and the father could provide reasonably exploring play in both safety and challenge [11]. To children with

autism, explorable play time is extremely important. Because children with autism have difficulties in play, particularly the interaction play of creativity and symbolism [12]. This means children with autism could not benefit from the repetitive behaviors in the play. Explorable play requires a higher level of cognition. Fathers usually could provide directions equal to children's recent performance or a little higher than children's recent performance in the play [12]. Positive father-child relationships contribute to children in unique ways [11]. The security attachment provided by the father can significantly reduce the risk of children having behavioral problems in elementary school, also, using semi-structured observation to observe the fathers parenting behaviors at home, if the father could provide a high level of positive warmth, sensitivity, and cognitive stimulation interactions supporting to their children, the cognitive level of the children will much higher than the children without father support [11].

4.2 Father Language Pattern

Fathers contribute unique support to children's language development. Fathers provide unique language models, compared with the mother, the fathers prefer to use high-level vocabulary, which is a more varied and rarer, and more complex language model [9]. The language that the father provided created a bridge for the children to reach the more complex world outside of the family environment [9]. Compared with the mother, the father more frequently failed to acknowledge the children's utterances and ideas expressions [13]. This means the communication structure between children and the father, and the response pattern of the father are more likely the same as adults in society, which means the children need to face more challenges during the communication with their father and prompt children to be ready to talk with the people they do not familiar with [13]. Even though the father and mother propose a similar number of questions in the conversation with their children, the father uses more direction, fewer hints, and less declaration [14]. Even though fathers used less total language, less supportive language, less negative language, and more directive and informing language than did mothers, the father has no significant difference between the mother in question using and information requesting [10].

4.2.1 Father language output

Overall language output from the interaction between father and children is significantly less than the interaction between mother and children. In the 10-minute play sessions of 12 middle-class children, the amount of father language output shows less than the mother in the dyadic situation, but the father produced a similar amount of language output as the mother in the triadic situation [10].

4.2.2 Father language questioning

Compared with the mother, the smaller number of questions fathers will ask children with limited opening questions, such as when, what, why, who, and where, but more yes or no questions [10]. Which will cause the children to prefer directly to illustrate their answers and thinking.

4.3 Emphasizing of Father in the Communication

The research of Girolametto and Tannock [15] indicated that the father prefers to use more topic control in communication and talking to children who have worse communication skills and fewer interaction behaviors. This means the father will prefer to force children to respond or give reactions in the conversation, also, when the father realizes the children will not participate in the topic that they are talking about right now, the father will prefer to change to another topic immediately. The manifestation of children with autism during conversation is more repetitive language, off-topic, and lacking interaction [2]. Fathers usually hold a higher expectation of social participation of their children; therefore, fathers cannot accept their children's off-topic communication [15]. Also, the father requires the children to keep the norm of interaction during communication, such as keeping maintaining the topic [15]. Even though the sensing of pressure on children has no significant difference between the communication with the father or mother, but comparing with the mother, the father holds a higher requirement to the people he talked with (the children), paying less attention to

the purpose and demand of children's conversation, but paying more attention on the interaction and topic maintaining during the conversation [15]. More topic control during communication will cause children with autism to have higher pressure during the conversation with their father and produce a sense of failure when the father is forced to change the topic on purpose.

4.4 Indirect Effect: Father Reduces Mother's Negative Pressure in Parenting

In the past decades, traditional family structure cause the mother to be considered the primary caregiver in the family who is responsible for the majority of the duty of taking care of children and supporting their daily life, emotion, and learning [1]. Usually, the role of the father was to assume the secondary caregiver, simply babysitter, or only a part of relative care [1]. Right now, following the structure of the family change, an increasing number of the family have a father and a mother both as the source of finance, but the mother still needs to take care of the children and housework [1]. When the father caring for the children becomes the normalization, the mother's pressure on parenting could decrease significantly, especially when the mother with depression, the positive involvement with the children could benefit the therapeutic effect.

5. The Limitation and Future Directions

In recent years, there is an increasing number of research showing the importance of fathers' participants in children with autism life, but in the majority of the researchers, fathers still do not consider the main research subject, which means the main context in research of "parents" in children with autism life is majority talking about mother, the fathers are usually just be mentioned only in the research but without enough detail to support the claim. Future research should treat fathers' position in the interaction and communication with children with autism as the same as the mother.

There are many data collections that come from the interview and self-grade sheet. The result of the interview and self-grade sheet may be unilateral because based on the fathers' self-esteem, society's praise may cause some of the fathers may not want to be considered as the "low participate father" and they will make a false report or mark higher scores. In future research strategies, using more field visit observation with more families involved in research can increase the veracity and integrity of the information, and make sure the data will be more available.

6. Summary

The purpose of this article is to explore the influences that the father brings to the development of children with autism on emotional, and social communication, relationship, and language. Children with autism show social communication disorder, repetitive stereotyped behaviors, and limited interest. Having difficulties in understanding, explaining, and accepting information in communication, a lower success rate to build a positive relationship with others, hard to provide quality interaction, and low communication skills cause the influence of children with autism fathers to be more important. The past studies are focused more on parenting influences on children with autism from the mother because the mother usually takes domain responsible for the caring family, and the information about fathers to their children with autism is limited. This article provides some use for references to the subsequent study of discussing the function and influences of fathers on children with autism; the significance of this article gives the fathers of children with autism some enlightens to put more effect of their father role in their children's development. Through the overview of the previous research, the significant discoveries of this article are if the father spends a longer time staying with children with autism, the children with autism will show a higher sense of security and the father is not willing to accept to continue to talk with children when they are out of topic. Even though the father shows lower overall sensitivity and limited positive influence than the mother, the father will sufficiently adjust their behaviors to meet the demand of children with autism to reach and provide a similar level of EA as the mother. Compared with the mother, the father prefers to

adopt a simplified speech register and chooses to use a higher pitch during speaking; the father provides a unique language pattern by using high-level vocabulary and providing a similar reaction model as the adult in society for children getting familiar to readily communicate with the people in society. the overall language output from the interaction between father and children is significantly less than the interaction between mother and children but a smaller number of questions with fewer opening questions and more yes or no questions. Also, when the father refuses to talk or forces them to change to another topic, the children will produce a sense of failure. Also, when the father takes more care of the children, which will indirectly reduce the mother's negative pressure in parenting. The research significance of this article is to investigate the present influence fathers bring on the development of their children with autism, and emphasize the significance of fathers participating in parenting their children with autism. Even though there are an increasing number of research about father and children with autism, compared with mother and children with autism, there are still a lacks of enough detail to support the claim of the role of the father in parenting. Also, much data collections come from the interview and self-grade sheet, which will cause the collection date to produce deviation. So, future research could use more field visit observation strategies to increase the veracity and integrity of the information and data.

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