

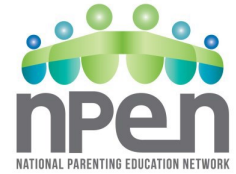


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Research Update for Professionals

Facilitative Parenting & Bullying

Selected Research Article:

Healy, K. L., Sanders, M. R., & Iyer, A. (2015). Parenting practices, children's peer relationships and being bullied at school. *Journal of Child and Family Studies*, 24, 127-140. doi:10.1007/s10826-013-9820-4



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What were they trying to find out?

- Previous studies have suggested that the family system is important for supporting individual children who are bullied at school.
- Researchers wanted to identify if the presence of facilitative parenting (warm and responsive parenting that encourages independence) is an indicator of whether or not children are bullied at school.

What did they do?

- 215 children ages 5-11 (50.2% girls) were interviewed to indicate sensitivity to peer behavior.
- The parents completed a self-report of their own parenting practices and reported on their child's peer friendliness and assertiveness, conduct problems, and internalizing problems (e.g., anxiety, depression).
- The teachers were asked to measure how much bullying each child experienced (i.e., physical, verbal, social).

What did they find?

- The researchers found that as facilitative parenting increased, the child's ability to act in a confident, friendly manner in social situations also increased, and the teachers' reports of perceived bullying of the participants decreased.

What does it mean for parenting educators?

- We want to inform parents about the benefits of facilitative parenting in their children's peer relationships. Examples of facilitative parenting strategies include:
 - Encouraging appropriate independence
 - Supporting development of child friendships
 - Coaching children in effectively handling conflict and peer problems
 - Showing affection towards the child (be warm and responsive)