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Horizontal Qualities in Parent-Child Relationships: Parallels with and Possible Consequences for Children's Peer Relationships

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Abstract

The possibility that parent-child relationships contain horizontal qualities that parallel comparable qualities in child-peer relationships is examined. It is argued that these qualities in parent-child relationships provide children with opportunities to experience and practice horizontal skills, which are then used in relationships with peers. To examine this prospect, horizontal qualities in parent-child relationships are first defined and illustrated. Particular reference is made to reciprocity and shared power in parent-child relationships, especially in contexts involving parent-child play and control exchanges.

Developmental changes in the extent, nature, and role of horizontal qualities in

Developmental changes in the extent, nature, and role of horizontal qualities in parent-child relationships are discussed. Evidence is provided of wide individual differences among parent-child dyads in the degree to which horizontal qualities are exhibited. A case is developed for horizontality in parent-child relationships having consequences for children's development of peer skills and competence. Issues and limitations associated with claims about the presence and role of horizontal qualities in parent-child relationships are outlined, and directions for future research suggested.



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S. W. Duck

The importance of play in promoting healthy child development and maintaining strong parent-child bonds, plumage has been reorganized.

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as well as stabilizes the authoritarianism that was to be proved.