

Abstract

The effects of parent's differential discipline and sibling status on sibling relationship and adolescence's well-being were examined. 354 Chinese adolescents in Hong Kong were studied. Participants were either first-born or last-born child in their family. With substantial correspondence between the two parents' differential discipline, congruent differential discipline pattern (i.e. both parents displayed same level of differential discipline to their children) was most common. Congruent differential discipline were further divided into 3 levels: disciplined younger child more, equal treatment and disciplined older child more. Results indicated that differential treatment was related to less sibling warmth, more sibling conflicts, poor perceived competence and self worth, as well as more anxiety and depression. Whereas for sibling status, older sibling always reported greater relative power and sibling conflicts.