

Abstract

Past studies showed that parents may use different strategies to resolve disputes with their children. However, most of these studies were done in western countries and situational differences receive minimal attention. The present study aimed to explore how Hong Kong Chinese mothers tackle their children's misbehaviors in situations with different levels of public exposure and whether or not that their parenting styles would be related to their choice of strategies. Questionnaires to determine parenting styles accompanied by an interview to examine how public exposure and types of disputes influence mothers' strategies were conducted with 30 mothers of 4 to 6-year-old children. Results suggested that Hong Kong Chinese mothers did change their strategies in different situations, as they were concerned with how their behaviors were evaluated by others.