

**Mediation Effect of Maternal Occupational Skillfulness on the Relationship between  
Maternal Education and Preschoolers' Behavior in the Chinese Context**

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### **Abstract**

The purpose of the current study was to examine the mediation effect of maternal occupational skillfulness on the relationship between length of maternal education and preschool children's behavior (internalizing and externalizing behavior) in Chinese context. Child Behavior Checklist (CBCL) and Caregiver-Teacher Report Form (C-TRF) was distributed to parents and teachers of the subjects ( $N = 286$ ) respectively so as to collect information on children's behavior.

Information on maternal occupational skillfulness and education level were also collected.

Results suggested that maternal occupational skillfulness would only mediate the effect of maternal education on the internalizing and externalizing behavior that were rated by parents, but not for the behaviors that were rated by teachers. The findings provided insightful implication for counseling psychologists or family therapists in targeting high-risk families for intervention.

Future replication studies could be done in other countries so as to examine if similar results could be obtained.

*Keywords:* internalizing behavior, externalizing behavior, maternal occupational skillfulness, maternal education, preschool children