

Abstract

Parenting behaviour is the vital factor affecting our development on differentiating various emotional facial expression, yet few studies investigated how parenting impose an effect on child emotion recognition ability in an immediate manner. We investigated emotion recognition abilities among local primary school children (N =120, 58 boys and 62 girls, 7 – 12 years old), testing the hypothesis that children’s emotion recognition ability is affected by maternal parenting warmth and engagement. The result showed that, in a stressful situation, third-party observed maternal negative engagement was related to longer reaction time and poorer performance on recognizing happiness among the child when the child age, child IQ and family income were controlled. Maternal engagement appeared to affect how children process positive feedback. The result could have an implication on parenting, mental health and education towards the young generation.