

## Associations among Interparental Conflict, Parenting Behavior, and Children's Adjustment

Li-Yu Shyu

Department of Psychology, Soochow University

The relationship between interparental conflict, parenting behavior and children's adjustment were examined in a community sample of 539 fifth graders and 280 parents using a 2-wave research design. The parenting behaviors, including warmth, involvement, rejection, harsh discipline, father-child conflict, and mother-child conflict, were tested as potential mediators, moderators or independent predictors. The results indicated that negative parenting behaviors such as rejection, harsh discipline, father-child conflict, and mother-child conflict partially mediated the relationship between interparental conflict and children's internalizing problems. Furthermore, parental rejection, father-daughter conflict and mother-daughter conflict fully mediated the impact of interparental conflict on girls' externalizing problems. The parenting-as-mediator model was supported. In addition, both interparental conflict and parental rejection were associated with children's internalizing problems, and each predicted the internalizing problems independently. While, father-daughter conflict was related to girls' externalizing problems directly. Thus, the interparental conflict and parenting behavior as independent predictor model was also supported. These findings suggest the unique importance of interparental relationship and parenting behavior. For clinicians, interventions that teach parents to handle their marital conflict constructively and to parent their children positively in the context of marital conflict may be needed. Efforts to reduce interparental conflict and its spillover effects on compromised parenting are important for reducing children's adjustment problems.

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