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Love of learning: affluent mothers' motivational practices

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Abstract:

The purpose of this study is to explore the relationship between the motivation practices of affluent mothers and their children's motivation across academic subject areas, using the Children's Academic Intrinsic Motivation Inventory (CAIMI) (Gottfried, A.E., 2006), the Parental Motivational Practices Scale (PMPS) (Gottfried, A. E., Gottfried, A. W., & Fleming, J. S., 1994), and Motivation Interview Questions developed specifically for this study. This uses mixed-methods along with ethnographic research to delve into the bases of motivation in affluent families. The study consists of 10 mothers and their 10 children who were aged 8 to 13 (M=11.3, SD= 2.11; 50% male, 50% female) and of European-American and Middle Eastern ethnicity attending private and public schools in the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) and Los Virgenes Unified School District (LVUSD). Interviews with the mothers involved in the study, yielded opinions about intrinsic and extrinsic motivation and their involvement in the children's learning success were examined. Overall, no significant correlations between mothers' intrinsic or extrinsic motivational practices and their children's CAIMI scores were found. Discussion will focus on the implications for future research on the relationship between affluent mothers' motivation practices and their children's motivation in various subject areas, and suggestions to educators for recognition of each child's unique motivational needs.

Description:

Includes bibliographical references (pages 48-54)

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