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Parent Teacher Interactions: A study of the dynamics of social influence

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Parent Teacher Interactions: A study of the dynamics of social influence

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Degree   Doctorate of Philosophy

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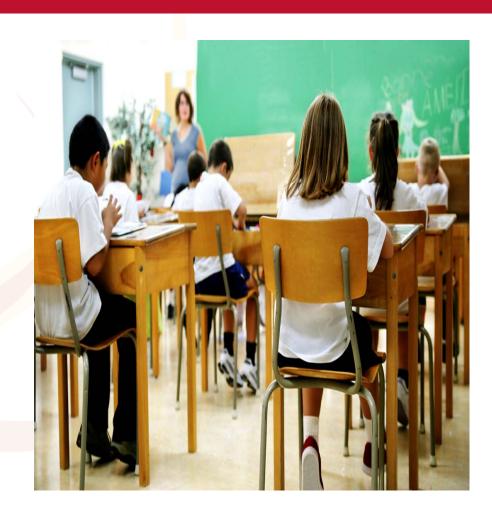   Associate Professor Carmel Maloney
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Purpose of Research

• Identify various factors which impact on parent-teacher interactions

• The role of social influence during co-status dyadic interactions

Perspectives and views influence what they do, and their experiences influence their perspectives" Willis 2007
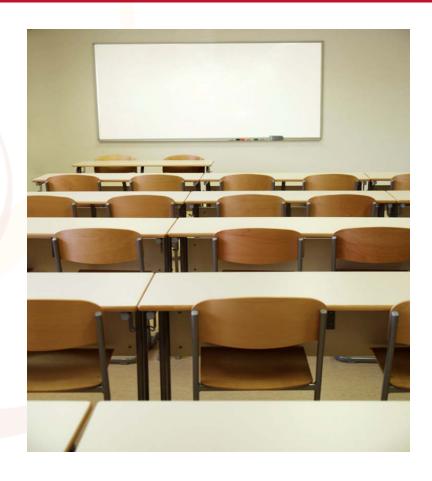
Background to Study

- Parental involvement programs

- Home and school partnerships

- Student achievement

- Barriers exist that prevent parental involvement in schools

- Strategies need to be identified to connect parents and teachers together

Participants

- Low fee, independent, Protestant metropolitan Perth primary schools

- School population was predominantly middle income - based on 2009 socio-economic scores.

- Sixty seven parents and teachers K-6, including specialist teachers of Physical Education, Learning Support, Dance, and Languages Other Than English.

Research Questions

1. What is the nature of parents' and teachers' experiences of their interactions?

2. What evidence is there of social influence being employed in parent teacher interactions?

   2.2. Is the use of social influence associated with particular contexts?

   2.3. Is the use of social influence associated with particular purposes for the interaction?

Findings: Nature of Parent-Teacher Interactions and the Dynamics of Social Influence

Satisfactory Parent-Teacher Interactions

Less than Satisfactory Parent-Teacher Interactions

Collaborative Practices
- Approachability
- Honesty
- Listening
- Relationships
- Sharing Information
- Support and Resources
- Working Together

Non-Collaborative Practices
- Emotive Behaviours
- Lack of Confidence
- Lack of Information
- Lack of Support
- Not Listening
- Not Working Together
- Unapproachability

Social Influence Strategies
- Authorities/Experts
- Discussion
- Evidence
- Passive Resistance
- Pressure
- Relational

Context
- Formal Face-to-Face Parent-Teacher Interactions
- Informal Face-to-Face Parent-Teacher Interactions

Purposes
- Student Related Purposes
- Non-Student Related Purposes

Collaborative Practices

Practices	Activities	Outcomes
Relationships Practice	Rapport Insight into their nature Connectivity Levels of trust	Student support Pastoral care
Working Together Practice	Partnership Consultation Sharing ideas	Student support Pastoral care
Sharing Information Practice	Exchange of student related facts Communication (two-way and one-way)	Student support Pastoral care
Approachability Practice	Accessibility Embracing nature of the other person Comfortability	Student support

Non-Collaborative Practices

Practices	Activities	Outcomes
Unapproachability Practice used by teachers	Inaccessible Lacking in warmth Intimidation Brusque professional attitudes	Limited exchange of student information Low levels of student support
Lack of Information Practice used by teachers	Not enough information Does not recognise requests Poor communication	Limited exchange of student information Parents cannot support child at home
Lack of Support Practice used by parents	Provides no assistance to child Fails to carry out educational program at home	Reduced assistance to parent and decreased support for the student
Emotive Behaviour Practice used by parents	Aggression Shouting overtones Verbal abuse Intimidation	Limited exchange of student information

Social Influence Strategies

Social Influence Strategy	With the aim to	With the function to	Using the technique of	Resulting in
Discussion Strategy	Share a perspective	Advise Obtain mutual understanding Participate in the decision-making process	Persuasion	A course of action Pastoral care Support for the student
Evidence Strategy	Adopt a perspective	Present a reality Explain the facts Provide reasons	Persuasion	A course of action
Relational Strategy	Obtain a perspective	Connect Obtain an insight into their nature and their worldviews	Manipulation	Pastoral care Support for the student
Pressure Strategy	Adopt a perspective	Persevere Insist Use power and authority	Coercion	A course of action
Authorities/ Experts Strategy	Share/ Adopt a perspective	Inform Advise	Persuasion Coercion	A course of action Support for the student
Passive Resistance Strategy	Ignore a perspective	Avoid Negate Absent themselves	Negation	Limited or no action Limited or no support for the student

Formal contexts

Contexts	Parents	Teachers
Formal Parent-Teacher Interviews	Evidence Strategy Discussion Strategy	Evidence Strategy Discussion Strategy
Formal Parent-Teacher Meetings	Evidence Strategy Discussion Strategy Authorities/Experts Strategy	Evidence/Discussion Strategies Authorities/Experts Strategy Relational Strategy
Formal Parent-Teacher Interactions with a Third Person	Pressure Strategy Discussion Strategy	Pressure Strategy Discussion Strategy

Discussion Strategy	Share a perspective	Advise Obtain mutual understanding Participate in the decision-making	Persuasion	A course of action Pastoral care Support for the student
Evidence Strategy	Adopt a perspective	Present a reality Explain the facts Provide reasons	Persuasion	A course of action
Relational Strategy	Obtain a perspective	Connect Obtain an insight into their nature and their worldviews	Manipulation	Pastoral care Support for the student
Pressure Strategy	Adopt a perspective	Persevere Insist Use power and authority	Coercion	A course of action
Authorities/ Experts Strategy	Share/ Adopt a perspective	Inform Advise	Persuasion Coercion	A course of action Support for the student

Informal contexts

Informal Contexts	Parents	Teachers
Informal Parent-Teacher Interactions - General	Discussion Strategy Relational Strategy	Discussion Strategy Relational Strategy
Informal Parent-Teacher Interactions - Non-Verbal	Relational Strategy Evidence Strategy	Evidence Strategy Relational Strategy

Discussion Strategy	Share a perspective	Advise Obtain mutual understanding Participate in the decision-making process	Persuasion	A course of action Pastoral care Support for the student
Evidence Strategy	Adopt a perspective	Present a reality Explain the facts Provide reasons	Persuasion	A course of action
Relational Strategy	Obtain a perspective	Connect Obtain an insight into their nature and their worldviews	Manipulation	Pastoral care Support for the student

Student Related Purposes

Student Related Purposes	Parents	Teachers
Behaviour	Discussion Strategy	Discussion Strategy Evidence Strategy
Cognitive	Discussion Strategy Evidence Strategy	Discussion Strategy Evidence Strategy
Emotional	Discussion Strategy	Discussion Strategy
Medical	Discussion Strategy	Discussion Strategy
Social	Discussion Strategy	Discussion Strategy Evidence Strategy
Student Support	Discussion Strategy	Passive Resistance Strategy Discussion Strategy

Discussion Strategy	Share a perspective	Advise Obtain mutual understanding Participate in the decision-making process	Persuasion	A course of action Pastoral care Support for the student
Evidence Strategy	Adopt a perspective	Present a reality Explain the facts Provide reasons	Persuasion	A course of action

Non-Student Related Purposes

Non-Student Related Purposes	Parents	Teachers
Courtesies	Relational Strategy	Relational Strategy
Identity	Relational Strategy	Relational Strategy
Information	Relational Strategy	Relational Strategy
Personal	Relational Strategy	Relational Strategy

Relational Strategy	Obtain a perspective	Connectivity Obtain an insight into their nature and their worldviews	Manipulation	Pastoral care Support for the student

Conclusion : Nature of Parent-Teacher Interactions and the Dynamics of Social Influence

Satisfactory Experiences of Parent-Teacher Interactions

Less than satisfactory Experiences of Parent-Teacher Interactions

Collaborative Practices
- Relationships
- Sharing information
- Working Together

Non-Collaborative Practices
- Emotive Behaviours
- Lack of support
- Lack of Support
- Unapproachability

Social Influence Strategies

Discussion (*persuasion*)
Evidence (*persuasion*)
Pressure (*coercion*)
Relational (*manipulation*)

Social Influence Strategies

Passive Resistance (*negation*)

Positive outcomes for students

Less than satisfactory outcomes for students

Parent Teacher Interactions: Achieving their own goals