

Abstract

This study aimed at exploring the correlation of pre-school students' parent-child relationship and their performance on Kinetic Family Drawing (KFD). Furthermore, the study analyzed the different characteristics revealed on the drawings between the students who had good parent-child relationship and poor child-parent relationship. Also, interviews were employed to better understand the performance of these two groups.

A sample of 156 pre-school students from third grade of one kindergarten in Macao participated in this study. There were 76 students selected to form two groups, based on their performance on the Pre-School Children's Parent-Child Relationship Scale 37 students were in the good parent-child relationship group and the other 39 students were in poor parent-child relationship group. Three students from each group were selected to participate the follow-up interview. Descriptive statistics, Chi-square tests and point-biserial correlation were used for quantitative data analysis. Semi-structured interview was also employed to collect qualitative data for analysis. The main findings were as following:

1. There were significant difference between good parent-child relationship group and poor parent-child relationship group (cooperative mom and self between family members) on graphic indicators of the KFD.
2. There were significant positive correlation between some parent-child relationship indicators (lining at top, upper and lower part of body not in proportion, self who stand out of the whole family, short arms of self, long arms mother, communicating mother, cooperative mother) and some parent-child relationship subscales of Pre-School Parent-Child Relationship Scale. And there were significant negative correlation between some parent-child relationship indicators (self who between family members, body completion of self, body completion of father, body completion of mother, short arms mother, father's motion 'read', mother's motion 'stand') and some parent-child relationship subscales of Pre-School Parent-Child Relationship Scale.

3. When observing the KFD, there were obvious differences in 'The Drawing Theme', 'The First Drawing Figure' and 'Intention of Changing Family Events' between these two groups. It also suggested that the indicators should not lead to absolute interpretations. It is more suitable to examine the drawings together with personal interviews with children so as to understand the real meaning and implication of the KFD.