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NEWSLETTER

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## **Parity between Paternal and Maternal Involvement and Child Subjective Well-Being: A Response Surface Analysis Based on Polynomial Regression**

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**I**N A FAMILY with both parents working full-time, the father and mother need to assume plural responsibilities at work and home. As a result, interparental coordination and proper division of responsibilities are of particular importance. This article aims to examine the relation between parity between paternal and maternal involvement and child subjective well-being, as well as the effect of gender on this relation, based on a longitudinal investigation of two consecutive years sampling grade-four students from 1145 Chinese families with both parents working full-time.

Research findings show that:

- Overall, parity between paternal and maternal involvement was not directly related to child subjective well-being. Compared with two parents of low involvement, one parent of high involvement could generate more positive effects on child development.
- The child experienced a higher level of subjective well-being with high paternal and maternal involvement than with low involvement of both parents. This is because high involvement of both parents elicits active parent-child interactions.
- The inequality between paternal and maternal involvement had a significant impact on the subjective well-being of boys, whose subjective well-being was increased in both the two years when the involvement of their fathers was higher than that of their mothers. Nevertheless, the disparity between paternal and maternal involvement made no difference to girls' subjective well-being.

Implications:

- Both parents should be actively involved in their children' life to increase parent-child interactions and work to enhance kids' subjective well-being by creating warm home atmospheres and giving them more encouragement, advice on social activities, and directions on emotional expression and regulation.

- The father should pay more attention to the kids' growth and meet their needs for emotional communication, especially in families having sons. Compared with girls, boys are more ready to turn to the father for help.

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