

## THE PSYCHOLOGICAL AND MORAL INFLUENCE OF MOTHERS IN THE UPBRINGING OF PRESCHOOL CHILDREN

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### Abstract

This study examines the psychological and moral influence of mothers in the upbringing of preschool children. It explores how emotional relationships, maternal behavior, and value transmission shape children's personality development. The findings indicate that maternal warmth, support, and positive communication significantly contribute to emotional stability, social adaptation, and independent thinking. Furthermore, non-punitive approaches based on encouragement and explanation are shown to be more effective than authoritarian methods. The study also identifies practical strategies for improving parenting practices in contemporary family contexts.

**Keywords:** mother, child upbringing, psychological influence, moral education, emotional development, social adaptation, preschool education

**Introduction.** The development of a well-rounded generation is a strategic priority in modern society. Within this process, the family—and especially the mother—plays a decisive role. A mother's influence extends beyond biological care, encompassing psychological support and moral guidance that shape a child's early development.

In the context of globalization and rapid social change, traditional parenting approaches are being reconsidered. Increased exposure to digital environments and changing family dynamics require more scientifically grounded and psychologically informed parenting practices. Therefore, analyzing the psychological and moral influence of mothers is both timely and necessary.

The aim of this study is to identify key mechanisms of maternal influence and to determine their practical implications for preschool child development.

**Literature Review.** Theoretical foundations of this study are based on established psychological and pedagogical frameworks. According to John Bowlby, early attachment relationships form the basis of emotional security and personality development. Diana Baumrind identified parenting styles, emphasizing the effectiveness of authoritative (democratic) approaches over authoritarian methods.

Urie Bronfenbrenner highlighted the role of family as a primary environment influencing child development, while Lev Vygotsky emphasized the importance of social interaction in cognitive and emotional growth. Additionally, Albert Bandura demonstrated that children learn behaviors through observation and imitation, reinforcing the importance of maternal modeling.

These theories collectively support the argument that maternal psychological and moral influence is fundamental to early childhood development.

**Methodology.** This study employed a qualitative research design combining several methods:

- **Theoretical analysis** of psychological and pedagogical literature;

- **Observation** of mother–child interactions in family settings;
- **Comparative analysis** of different parenting styles;
- **Surveys and interviews** with mothers and preschool educators.

The research sample consisted of preschool-aged children and their mothers. The focus was on examining how maternal emotional attitudes, behavior patterns, and moral values influence child development outcomes.

**Results. Psychological Influence.** The findings demonstrate that maternal emotional support plays a critical role in shaping children’s psychological well-being. Children raised in supportive environments exhibit higher levels of emotional stability, confidence, and resilience. Positive communication fosters trust and strengthens the child’s sense of security.

Conversely, maternal stress, neglect, or excessive criticism negatively affect children’s emotional state, often leading to anxiety and low self-esteem.

**Moral Influence.** Mothers serve as primary role models in transmitting moral values. Behaviors such as honesty, empathy, respect, and responsibility are largely acquired through observation of maternal actions. The family environment thus becomes a foundational context for moral development.

**Practical Implications.** The study identified several effective parenting practices:

- Regular communication and shared activities (e.g., play, reading);
- Use of encouragement and explanation rather than punishment;
- Providing individualized attention to support developmental needs.

These practices contribute to the development of emotional intelligence, social competence, and independent thinking skills.

**Discussion.** The results confirm that maternal influence is a decisive factor in early childhood development. Emotional attachment between mother and child forms the basis for psychological security and social competence.

The study supports the superiority of democratic parenting styles over authoritarian approaches. Children raised in respectful and supportive environments demonstrate greater independence and adaptability.

However, modern socio-economic conditions present new challenges. Increasing maternal employment often reduces the time available for direct interaction with children. This highlights the importance of quality over quantity in parent–child communication.

**Conclusion.** The psychological and moral influence of mothers is integral to the holistic development of preschool children. Mothers play a key role in shaping emotional stability, moral values, and social behavior.

The following recommendations are proposed:

- Foster a supportive and emotionally warm environment;
- Prioritize positive communication;

- Replace punitive methods with encouragement and explanation;
- Encourage children's independent thinking and self-expression.

The findings can serve as a practical guide for parents and educators in improving child upbringing strategies.

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