

“How Family Relationships Influence Child Development: Recent Research and Parallels to the Classroom”

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There are many parallels between research on child development within families and the dynamics of the college classroom. In this presentation, I will review my recent research on family relationships and children’s social and emotional development, with a focus on relationships between parents and children, relationships between parents who parent children together (coparenting), and children’s contributions to their own development. Then, I will extend relevant concepts and findings to the college classroom. Key principles I will highlight include the importance of a secure base, the bidirectional and transactional nature of relationships, and the interaction between individual characteristics and the environment. This presentation will help attendees reflect on their teaching roles and relationships with students through new lenses.

Speaker Bio

Sarah Schoppe-Sullivan is a Professor of Psychology at Ohio State University. Professor Schoppe-Sullivan received her B.A. in Psychology from Northwestern University, and her M.A. and Ph.D. in Developmental Psychology from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Professor Schoppe-Sullivan is a nationally and internationally recognized expert on coparenting, father-child relationships, and the transition to parenthood, and a Fellow of the National Council on Family Relations. Her research has been funded by the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development and the National Science Foundation. Professor Schoppe-Sullivan is a deputy editor of the Journal of Marriage and Family, as well as a member of the editorial boards of the Journal of Family Psychology, Parenting: Science and Practice, and the Journal of Family Theory and Review.

Regarding teaching and mentoring, Professor Schoppe-Sullivan has taught undergraduate courses in child psychology, infant development, and research methods, and graduate courses focused on children’s social-emotional development, attachment theory, and coparenting. In recognition of the high quality of her teaching, Professor Schoppe-Sullivan has received a number of awards, including the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Campus Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Instruction by a Graduate Student and the Ohio State Alumni Award for Distinguished Teaching. At Ohio State, Professor Schoppe-Sullivan has received the Siddens Award for Distinguished Faculty Advising of Graduate Students and the Distinguished Undergraduate Research Mentor Award, which acknowledge her outstanding mentoring of undergraduate and graduate students in research.