

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.