

Abstract

This study explored differences in developmental timetables and concepts of development of mothers from Chinese and American cultures. In Study 1, 26 English-speaking mothers in United States and 24 Mandarin-speaking mothers in China had completed a questionnaires on developmental timetables, and in Study 2, interviews were conducted to 14 English-speaking and 42 Mandarin-speaking mothers. Results showed that Chinese mothers expected earlier mastery of skills that required training, including school-related achievements and self management skills. American mothers, on the other hand, expected earlier mastery of inborn abilities, such as simple emotions, natural cognitive abilities, and behavioral items. Results also demonstrated that Chinese and American mothers hold different views on what they consider 'thinking', 'remembering', 'feeling angry' and 'feeling shame' to be.