

## ABSTRACT

The paper investigated how parental goal affect preschool children's independence and the mediating role of childrearing practice in the effect by studying 82 mothers and their children from 2 Hong Kong kindergartens. Mothers were asked to fill in questionnaires assessing their parental goal and childrearing practice (i.e. overprotective parenting and encouragement of independence) while kindergarten teachers were asked to report on children's independent behavior. From the results, overprotective parenting is the mediator between parental goal and children's independence while encouragement of independence is not (only correlation effect was proved). The results suggested the hypothesis that mothers with parental goal of having independent children will have more child-rearing practice that enhances independence and their preschool children will be more independence was partially supported. Furthermore, this study provided both theoretical and practical implication for children's independence development.