

Abstract

An important factor influencing play opportunities in children is parental play beliefs (PPB). However, previous studies about primarily concerns a single parental generation, and no research has examined whether a pattern of intergenerational continuity exists in PPB.

Objectives: The purposes of the present study are (1) to explore the intergenerational characteristics of parental play beliefs (PPB), and (2) to examine the underlying mechanism of it using a qualitative method. It was hypothesised that the pattern of intergenerational continuity exists in PPB. It was also proposed that two mechanisms may be involved, including (i) direct modelling, and (ii) personality transmission of playfulness.

Methods: A qualitative methodology was used to examine the PPB. Semi-structural interviews were conducted and express their views regarding play. Qualitative responses from participants will be coded and assigned a rating.

Findings: Intergenerational continuity was demonstrated in PPB. When hindrances to play provision were high, personality continuity was stronger than modelling. On the other hand, when hindrances were small, modelling was stronger than playfulness continuity. These findings extend intergenerational continuity of supportive parenting to the specific domain of play. It also identifies the potential factor that influences the mechanism underlying the transgenerational pattern.