

ABSTRACT

ADOLESCENT DAUGHTERS' PERCEPTIONS OF SYNCHRONY IN THE MOTHER-DAUGHTER RELATIONSHIP: CONNECTIONS WITH SELF-CONCEPT, ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT, AND ETHNIC DIFFERENCES

Definitions of synchrony differ by researchers (e.g., Bernieri, Reznick, & Rosenthal, 1988). Focusing on mothers and their adolescent daughters, synchrony is defined here as the mother's desire to help and support her daughter, and the daughter's desire to accept that help and support. Synchrony was measured with the support, harmony, and communication subscales of the Mother Daughter Synchrony Scale (Gross & McCallum, 2000). This study found that while synchrony is related to both self-concept and academic achievement the relationships were not in the direction expected. Lower levels of harmony were related to higher levels of self-concept; lower levels of support and higher levels of communication were related to higher levels of self concept. Euro-Americans and Hispanic-Americans' levels of support, harmony, and communication did not differ. Results indicate the importance of mother-daughter communication during the early adolescent period due to its complex relationship with self-concept and academic achievement.

Rebecca Ellen Strong
August 2003