



De La Salle University - Dasmariñas

**NARRATIVE ACTIVITIES OF YOUNG CHILDREN:
AN IMPLICATION OF THE THEMES IN THEIR
EARLY FORMATION OF SELF**

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ABSTRACT

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Scope and Coverage : This study was designed to determine the implication of the themes of the narrative activities in the early formation of self among young children. Furthermore, this study focused on ten (10) respondents, whose ages range from 5-7 years, currently enrolled as Junior



Kinder, Senior Kinder and Grade One from Statefields School Inc., a school located in Molino III, Bacoor, Cavite.

Methodology

: This study is a descriptive qualitative type of research, using case study as the method. This case study method utilized the process of triangulation, specifically the use of interview, behavioral observation and the use of a projective test which is the Children's Apperception Test (CAT).

Findings

: The following findings were identified from this research:

- 1) The young children were 5 to 7 years old, mostly females and firstborns, from Junior Kinder to Grade One students of Statefields School Inc., and from a high-average socio-economic status.
- 2) The common representations in terms of relationships, experiences and



environment of the young children in their narratives were as follows:

Relationships: The young children represented dominance, dependence and desire for maintaining a positive lasting relationship attitude.

Experiences: The young children presented sibling rivalry and struggle for conscience and morality in their narrative activities.

Environment: The young children represented dark and unsafe environment.

3) The common themes emerged from the young children's narratives were lack of play, family stereotypes, roles, and violence and aggression.

4) The common roles and scripts of the young children revolved around familial roles and being leaders and followers.



5) The common needs that surfaced from the young children's Children's Apperception Test results were the need for play and need for security, affection and approval.

6) The implication of the themes of the narrative activities in their early formation of self were as follows:

a) The patterns of parenting styles (e.g. authoritarian, authoritative and permissive) affect the children's formation of self as it is crucial for their holistic development to adulthood.

b) It is not just the ordinal position which influences the children's formation of self but the circumstances related with this dramatic change, how their received treatments have changed in the family, and the struggle of getting used to the new role as an elder to the family.



c) The implication of defense mechanisms in the early formation of self in the young children is that it creates a sense of awareness to the children as they face crises that they need to resolve. The distortion of the negativities they experience implies on how they plan their actions for their problems. With the defense mechanisms they have formed, they find and try out solutions for their problems which could also have an effect on how they solve future problems.

d) Children's concept of morality, particularly their struggle for what is "good" and "wrong", is an indicative of their developing moral character and self-control based on their environment. With the rules and standards presented, children learn how to resolve moral dilemmas and decide whether actions are right and wrong for them.



Conclusions

: The following conclusions were drawn from the findings:

1) First, children's relationships showed that first-borns were dominant and competent. Second, sibling rivalry and competition appeared due to their fear of losing their parent's attention. Third, unsafe and dark environments were begotten as influenced by overprotective child rearing.

2) The following themes, issues and concerns emerged from their narratives. First, children's desire to play were noted wherein they had compensated through a constant shift of subject played during the given period. Second, concepts of family stereotypes and roles were identified from the participants.

3) With the roles and scripts gathered from their narratives, familial roles were



noticeably marked in this research. Also, the young children emerged to be leaders and followers in the narrative activities they have created.

4) Different needs were introduced. First, there is a need for the young children to play. Second is the children's need for affection and approval of others. Last, the young children have a need for power in which they want to explore and discover the pros and cons of every action that they take and, at the same time, take risks and chances to try and test different types of behavior.

5) The involvement of the narrative activities to the formation of self is a critical factor in the young children's development. Moreover, the themes that were elicited from the narrative activities gave rise to the needs and fears of the



children how they deal with the conflicts
that fall upon it.





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