

# Fathers' Involvement in Childrearing Practices of Their Children with Intellectual Disabilities\*

**Bekir Fatih Meral\*\*** 

Atilla Cavkavtar\*\*\*

#### Abstract

**Background:** Father Involvement in education of children with intellectual disabilities (ID) is extremely important for both school learning and healthy development of children with ID in family. Father involvement was explained by engagement, availability and responsibility. It can be stated that engagement requires spending time and efficient interaction with children. The purpose of this study was to investigate father involvement in childrearing practices about children with ID.

**Method:** The descriptive method was used in the study. Participants included 41 mothers and 41 fathers of children with ID Paternal Involvement of Child Care Index (PICCI) was used to collect data about father involvement and a family information form was used to collect data about the demographic features of families. The involvement of fathers was determined with the evaluations of both parents (father and mother).

**Results:** Results, according to the both parents' evaluations, indicated that father involvement in general was higher than the average. In the evaluations of both parents on father involvement, results also revealed that father involvement was low in "Child Care Responsibilities" only; however, other sub-areas of involvement were high. It was found that especially mothers were responsible as primary caregiver for the child care. Results also indicated that a significant relation was not found between family finances (monthly income of family), weekly working hours of fathers and gender of children with ID and the father involvement in childrearing practices with their children with ID.

**Conclusions:** The literature about the fathers' role in families and father-child relationship with normally developing children usually show father involvement is low. This research shows that fathers involve childrening practices of their children with ID. In direction of the research results, it can be said that having special needs is an effective factor for father involvement.

**Keywords:** Childrearing practices, father involvement, intellectual disabilities, Turkish fathers.

<sup>\*</sup> Meral, B.F., & Cavkaytar, A. (2011). Fathers' Involvement in Childrearing Practices of Children with Intellectual Disabilities in Turkey. *Oral Presentation*. 32nd Annual International Conference Bridges to Success in Developmental and Learning Disabilities / May 2 - May 5, 2011 New York City / USA, 2011.

<sup>\*\*</sup> PhD., Sakarya University, Faculty of Education, Department of Special Education, Hendek/Sakarya, Turkey E-mail: bfmeral@sakarya.edu.tr

<sup>\*\*</sup> Assoc. Prof. Dr., Anadolu University, Faculty of Education, Department of Special Education, Eskişehir, Turkey E-mail: acavkayt@anadolu.edu.tr

## INTRODUCTION

Researchers dealing with families who have children with Intellectual Disabilities (ID) usually paid more attention to mothers than to fathers in the past. However, the last 20 years have witnessed research on fathers' relation with their children and wives (Lamb, 1997; Quinn, 1999; Tylicki, 2003). Despite not having a mutual decision on the subject, the prior research was focused on how to provide fathers involvement and necessary supports and encouragements to make this involvement positive and permanent (Ouinn, 1999). According to Quinn (1999), there is no clear and permanent definition of father involvement, but Pleck's (1997) has commonly been appropriated. Pleck (1997) explained father involvement by the three basic dimensions of involvement, engagement, availability and responsibility. Considering the contents of these concepts, it can be stated that engagement requires spending time and efficient interaction with children. Availability means being always ready to help the child during activities such as dressing, feeding, cleaning and being nearby while the child is playing games. Responsibility, although not defined clearly, is the most important of all dimensions of father involvement. Responsibility can be named as making arrangements for the child care, fixing the necessary appointments and taking leave from work.

## **Background**

A number of studies emphases the importance of father involvement in child development. Some research has introduced same evidence claiming the positive association between social competence and academic achievements of children and father involvement (Grolnick & Slowraczek, 1994; Hart, DeWolf, Wozniak & Burts, 1992; Lewis, 1997; Nord, Birmhall & West, 1997). In their research, Amato and Paul (1999) indicated that father involvement increased child's academic achievement and reduced the frequency of unwanted behaviours. Another research by Dunn, Cheng, O'Conner & Bridges (2004) also showed that father involvement decreased adjustment problems children experienced. According to the results of the study of Flouri and Buchanan (2003) which is called 'National Child Development', father involvement is one of the preventing factors of psychological maladjustment. This study also indicated that father involvement prevented stress mothers had. Researchers in general have been supporting the thesis that fathers were more intensively involved in their sons' education rather than daughters' (Pleck, 1997). However, this can't be truly said for child care. Considering the gender difference father involvement in their sons' games was not observed in child care (Levy-Shiff & Israelashvilli, 1988). These findings show that there is a connection between child's social behaviours or teachers' perceiving that can have some influences on father involvement (Fagan, 1999).

Researchers had also stated that father involvement has some positive influences on both mother and child education and development. In some studies, the fact that, mothers who have children with ID are influenced positively by the spouse (father) support was expressed clearly (Nouh, Dumas, Wolf, & Fisman, 1989; Simmerman, Blacher & Baker, 2001). According to Ericson and Upshur'a (1989) when fathers give significant support to their wives and share the household cares, mothers'

perceiving the heavy burden of child care is lightened. Also since father involvement strength the family relationships and increases marriage order and expands the marriage satisfaction, it tends to prevent the stress factor coming from the case of having a child with ID (Trute, 1990; Willoughby & Glidden, 1995). The studies have been pointing to the existence of a close and positive relationship between father involvement and getting mothers to involve in the process (Nord, Brimhall & West, 1997).

The studies related to father involvement, indicate that fathers' working status obviously affect father involvement. In association with fathers with more free time are likely to involve in household cares and child care that fathers who have less free time (Becker, 1981, as cited in NCOFF Brief, 1999). Thus, unemployed or retired fathers are supposed to spend much more time with their children (Radin & Harold-Goldsmith, 1989). Some studies indicated that attending family education programs organized by schools increased father involvement. On the other hand, fathers' own skills also influenced their involvement on child education and care. It was observed that fathers who had knowledge on child care had higher motivation and self confidence (Fagan & Iglesias, 1999). Family involvement in education of children with ID particularly father involvement is extremely important on the aspect of achieving the goal of the education given at school and on the continuation of the healthy development of child in a family atmosphere. That's why we are in need of such a study as it will be a guide for the family education programmes and it will define the role of father development which already existed. Mostly, in Turkey, studies that are focused on families are based on some aspects, such as the efficiency of family education programs (Birkan, 2001; Cavkaytar, 1999; Ozen, 1999; Sucuoglu, Kucuker & Kanik, 1993; Vuran, 2000); the characteristics of the families who have children with ID (Arslan, Deniz & Hamarta, 2002; Bakkaloglu & Sucuoglu, 2000; Cavkaytar, Batu, Kartal, Cetin & Güllüpınar, 2004; Karyelioglu, 2002); levels of concern, worries and stress in families, family needs and family attitudes (Akkok, Askar & Karanci, 1992; Kozalioglu ve Ekberzade, 1994; Ulasanel, 1994; Evcimen, 1996; Mert, 1997; Besikci & Ozkardes, 2002). Nevertheless, studies that are focused just on father involvement in child rearing practices regarding children with ID are rarely found. It is thought that, this research is significant because of it can contribute to understanding fathers' involvement about child care in Turkey. The purpose of this research was to determine father involvement in childrearing practices of mentally retarded children and to find out if there were some relationships between some demographic features of families and general father involvement. In order to achieve this goal, definite answers were sought for the following questions: (1) What is the case of general father involvement in childrearing practices of children with ID? (2) Does this involvement tend to be different considering the sub-areas of involvement (statement of involvement; child care responsibility; socialization responsibility; influences in childrearing tasks; childrearing tasks; availability)? (3) Is there a relationship between father involvement and some demographic features of families?

## **METHOD**

## **Participants**

This study took place in the city of Eskisehir, Turkey, and included the participation of the parents whose children were attending a private rehabilitation center where this study was carried out. It has been carried out with 82 participant; 41 mothers and 41 fathers. The monthly income of the families was around 945 Turkish Liras (average 700\$). Participants were generally families with 2 children. The average age of participant fathers was 44 and their education level was mainly secondary school. The average weekly working hours of fathers were 43. Participant mothers' average age was 40, education level was generally primary school or just being able to read and write. Thirty-three of mothers were housewives. The average age of children was fourteen. Twenty-three of the children were boys and eighteen were girls. Thirty-six of the families were nuclear families and five families were extended families.

#### Measures

Data were collected, about father involvement, with the Paternal Involvement in Child Care Index (PICCI) and the data about the demographic features of families were collected with Family Information Form.

## Paternal Involvement in Child Care Index (PICCI)

One of the commonly used evaluation tools to measure father involvement in childrearing practices regarding children with ID is Paternal Involvement in Child Care Index (PICCI) which was developed by Radin (1982). However, although PICCI is focused on fathers, the practice not only includes fathers, but also the evaluation of mothers on fathers; thus, it was aimed to determine father involvement according to the evaluation of mothers. In other words, using both fathers' and mothers' evaluations on father involvement the study determined father involvement. In this kind of studies called fathers' reports on fathers and mothers' report on fathers. Each part of PICCI represents a value in a certain point distribution. Total point is calculated separately for each part. The total score is equal to average father involvement (Rich, 2002). PICCI survey, up to now, has been used for families with different characters (Ahmeduzzaman & Roopnarine, 1992; Rich, 2002; Williams, 1995; Suppal & Roopnarine, 1999). The rates of the general and sub-areas in PICCI is as following:

- 1. Statement of Involvement 0 12
- 2. Child Care 0 12
- 3. Socialization Responsibility 0 18
- 4. Influences in Childrearing Decisions 0 12
- 5. Childrearing Tasks 0 28
- 6. Availability 0 − 18
- \* General Involvement 0 100

Percentage evaluation questions were not included in the reliability analysis of PICCI, and evaluation has been done regarding 29 items in likert type. In reliability analysis for whole PICCI Cronbach Alpha value is: 0.87. In order to determine the consistency between the two evaluations was considered. Findings are as follows: general involvement: r = 0.48, p = 0.00; child care responsibility: r = 96, p = 0.00; socialization responsibility: r = 0.80, p = 0.00; influences in childrening decisions: r = 0.28, p = 0.05; the frequency of doing childrearing tasks: r = 60, p = 0.00; availability: r = 0.90, p = 0.00. According to consistency between father and mother evaluation in all areas p<0.05 and significant relationship was found between the evaluations of parents on father involvement. In samples of Euro-American fathers, PICCI has good construct validity and high test-retest correlations (coefficients ranged from .60 to .99; Radin, 1982), and good internal consistency when it is used with Puerto Rican and African-American fathers (Ahmeduzzaman & Roopnarine, 1992; Roopnarine & Ahmeduzzaman, 1993). PICCI has been used with fathers of children with disabilities (Piburn & Boyce, 1992; Young & Roopnarine, 1994; Ricci & Hodapp, 2003; MacDonald & Hastings, 2010). Paternal Involvement in Child Care Index (PICCI) is translated to Turkish by a specialist in special education and an English teacher. The Turkish form of PICCI is evaluated by other specialists in special education and their opinions are taken and final form of PICCI is built. Because of the limited number of subject, a pilot research couldn't be done. It is clear that this condition is a limit for the research.

## Family Information Form

Family Information Form is formed with a purpose of determining the characteristics of the families who have children with ID considering different demographic varieties. There are totally 16 questions in relation to age, educational status, professions, weekly working hours, family finances, family types and number of children and also age, gender and kind of retardation of children with ID.

## **Data Collection**

We got the appointments from 41 volunteer families by phone. In order to administer measures and collect the data, two practitioners, one female for mothers and one male for fathers, met with parents at their own houses but in separate rooms, in case, parents influenced each other. Meeting usually lasted about 30 minutes in a coordinated way.

## **RESULTS**

The findings of evaluation of both parents on father involvement in childrearing practices were relatively close to each other. It can be said in relation to these findings that father involvement rate was between 57% and 60% (above average level). In the statement of involvement, according to evaluation results, it was observed that fathers involved in childrearing practices. In child care area fathers rarely had responsibilities. In socialization responsibility fathers occasionally involved in tasks. Considering the results, it can be said that in influences on childrearing decisions when comparing to the mothers fathers were equally involved in decisions and in childrearing tasks fathers are sometimes involved. And finally, in

availability fathers were occasionally involved. In other words, it can be expressed that availability correlation was in medium level. The results are given in Table 1.

Table 1. Fathers	' involvement in	childrearing	practices of the	ir children w	ith ID (N=82)
- ***** - * - *******			F		(- ')

F	Fathers' evaluations on fathers			Mothers' evaluations on fathers		
AREAS	N	X	SD	N	X	SD
General Involvement	41	60.7	16.2	41	57.3	14.6
Statement of Involvement	41	8.3	3.03	41	8.04	2.6
Child Care	41	5.7	3.5	41	4.8	2.7
Socialization Responsibility	41	10.1	3.3	41	9.5	2.3
Influences in Childrearing Decisions	41	7.06	4.6	41	5.5	4.5
Childrearing Tasks	41	17.5	4.8	41	17.2	5.9
Availability	41	11.8	3.2	41	12.1	2.8

Regarding their answers, parent share the opinion that especially mothers (67.6% - 67.8%) were responsible as primary caregiver for the child care (Table 2). Moreover, considering the percentage results of the tasks taken place in child care and socialization responsibility sub-area, it was determined that those tasks were done primarily by mothers, secondly by father and thirdly by a particular person except parents in extended families. Results also indicated that there was no significant relationship between father involvement and family finances (father evaluations, r = 0.08, p = 0.61; mother evaluations, r = 0.22, p = 0.15); weekly working hours of fathers (father evaluations, r = -0.19, p = 0.21; mother evaluations, r = -0.02, p = 0.87); the gender of the children with ID (father evaluations, t = 0.13, t = 0.89; mother evaluations, t = 1.22, t = 0.22).

Table 2. Primary caregiver in childrearing practices of children with ID (N=82)

		8	
		According to Fathers	According to Mothers
GROUPS	-	%	%
Father		26.2	24.3
Mother		67.6	67.8
Other		6.2	7.9

## **DISCUSSION**

Regarding the results obtained from the study, father involvement in childrearing practices regarding children with ID is above the average. In addition to this, in the studies by Erkut (2003), Jacobs & Keeley (2006), Sagi (1982), Shields (1998), Rich (2002), Roopnarine (1999), Ricci & Hodapp (2003), MacDonald & Hastings (2010), and Flippin & Crais (2011), father involvement is also above the average level. Considering the evaluations of both parents on father involvement, it was determined that father involvement is low only in child care, and in the other involvement subareas, it is in medium level. The fact that father involvement in child care can be originated by the reason that these tasks require having a direct interaction between father and child. Likewise, Cavkaytar, Batu, Kartal, Cetin, and Gullupinar (2004) found that comparing to mothers, father involvement in childrearing responsibilities was low.

Additionally, in the father involvement research results by Levy-Shiff ve Israelashvilli (1988) and Sucuoglu, Kucuker, and Kanik (1993) were the same. However, Young and Roopnarine (1994), in their study based on the evaluations of both parents, unlikely determined that fathers having children with developmental disorders were similarly involved in the all involvement areas.

According to the results of this research, it is the mother who is primarily responsible in child care. Not surprisingly, both fathers and mothers reported that mothers spent significantly more time in primary caregiving than fathers did (Suppal & Roopnarine, 1999; Roach, Orsmond & Barratt, 1999). Fathers in particular engage less in the care and therapeutic support of their children with intellectual disabilities than mothers do (MacDonald & Hastings, 2010). It is estimated that fathers are the primary caregivers for only 24% of preschool-age children with working mothers (Flippin & Crais, 2011). In this sense, the result is consistent with the findings of the studies of Sagi (1982), Shields (1998), Roopnarine (1999) and Young & Roopnarine (1994). Up to now, mothers typically played a larger role than fathers within early intervention services because they were caring for the children at home while fathers were working outside and were less available (Murray & McDonald, 1996). For instance, within the early intervention service system, mothers remain the primary participants in child assessments (Crais, Poston Roy, & Free, 2006) and interventions (Able-Boone, 1993; Polmanteer & Turbiville, 2000).

Studying the relationship between demographic varieties and father involvement, it was not possible to find a relationship between family finances and father involvement in childrearing practices of their children with ID. This result is also consistent with the findings of Riposo (1999) and Roopnarine (1999). Nevertheless, some research shows that increase in family finances create some positive influences on father involvement (Hossain, 1992; Jacobs and Keeley, 2006; Shields, 1998; Sagi, 1982; Tiedje, 1993). Regarding the involvement studies focused on normally developing children, it can be said that, fathers, considering the family finances, perceive themselves just as financial supporters and this is a major handicap on father involvement (Quinn, 1999). Yet, in this study, it can be indicated that, fathers involved actively in childrearing practices because of their children's being handicapped and the mission of giving financial support does not prevent father involvement.

In the study, it couldn't be found any significant relationship between weekly working hours and father involvement. However, according to some various involvement studies, the involvement rate of fathers who spend less time at work is high (Becker, 1981, as cited in NCOFF, 1999; Radin & Harold-Goldsmith, 1989). Father involvement studies based on normally developing children show that the fathers see the intensity of weekly working hours as a barrier in their involvement in childrearing practices. But for this research, it can be said that fathers do not perceive intensive weekly working hours as a reason not to be involved in such practices, because they may be aware of the fact that their children are mentally retarded, and relatively there is more child care and childrearing responsibilities comparing to those normally developing children.

It was also determined in this study that according to results of the evaluations of both parents, the gender of children with ID does not affect father involvement. Also in the two different studies done by Shields (1999) with Afro-American fathers and by Roopnarine (1999) and Suppal & Roopnarine (1999) with Indian fathers, the gender factor did not change the situation. However, there are some studies supporting the thesis claiming that fathers were more involved in their sons' education and caring (Pleck, 1997) and there was a relationship between father involvement and their sons' cognitive development (Radin, 1981; Ziegler, 1979). In the studies done with white American fathers, it was observed that fathers are more actively involved in their sons' education and caring (Baruch & Barnett, 1981; Easterbrooks & Goldberg, 1984; Marcus, 1985). For the Turkish families with normally developing children, it can be said that there is a tendency to think that mothers are responsible for their daughters' and fathers are responsible for their sons' education and rearing (Guler, 1992). However, regarding the results of this study, we can say that the fact that being of children with ID is much more important than the gender factor, and father involvement is not influenced by it.

Since the literature about the father's role in families and father-child relationship is based on normally developing children, there is a general belief about father involvement's being low. However, fathers spend more time on caring for their children and are more directly involved with their children than fathers of past generations, effectively shifting from breadwinning to co-parenting roles (Pleck & Masciadrelli, 2004). This research shows that Turkish fathers involve childrearing practices of their children with ID. In direction of the research results, it can be said that having special needs is an effective factor for father involvement. In addition to findings, in family research, fathers of children with intellectual disability are a relatively neglected group. However, an understanding of fathers' adjustment to living with a child with intellectual disability could inform suitable support interventions. In spite of the fact that cognitive behavior therapy, interventions may be beneficial for fathers of the children with intellectual disabilities (Hastings & Beck 2004; Singer, Ethridge & Aldana, 2007).

## REFERENCES

- Able-Boone, H. (1993). Family participation in the IFSP process. *Infant-Toddler Intervention*, *3*, 63-71.
- Ahmeduzzaman, M. & Roopnarine, J. (1992). Socio-demographic factors, functioning, style, social support, and fathers' involvement with preschoolers in African-American families. *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 54(3), 699–707.
- Akkök, F., Aşkar, P., & Karancı, N. (1992). Özürlü Bir Çocuğa Sahip Anne Babalardaki Stresin Yordanması [The prediction of stress in parents of a child with disability]. Ozel Egitim Dergisi, 1(2), 9-13.
- Amato, G. & Paul, R. (1999). Nonresident father and children's well-being: A metaanalysis. *Journal of Marriage and the Family*, 61(3), 557-574.
- Arslan, C., Deniz, E., ve Hamarta, E. (2002). Engelli Çocuğu Olan Ailelerin Yaşam Doyumlarının Bazı Değişkenler Açısından İncelenmesi [Investigation of life satisfaction of parents of a child with disability in the aspects of some variables]. *XI. National Special Education Congress*, 2001, Konya: Egitim Kitabevi Pub.
- Bakkaloğlu, H.C. ve Sucuoğlu, B. (2000). Normal ve Zihin Engelli Bebeklerde Anne Bebek Etkileşiminin Karşılaştırmalı Olarak İncelenmesi [Investigation of mother baby interaction comparing with normal babies and babies with special needs]. Ozel Egitim Dergisi, 2(4), 47-58.
- Baruch, G. K., & Barnett, R. C. (1981). Father's participation in the care of their preschool children. *Sex Roles: A Journal of Research*, 7(10), 1043–1054.
- Barnet, R. C., & Baruch, G. K. (1987). Determinants of fathers' participation in family work. *Journal of Marriage and the Family*, 49, 29–40.
- Beşikçi, H. & Özkardeş, O. (2002). Otistik Olan ve Olmayan Normal Çocuklara Sahip Babaların Tutumları ve Aile Yapıları [The attitude of fathers of children with autism and fathers of normal children and structer of family]. *XII. National Special Education Congress; Methods-Approaches-Strategies*, Ankara Univesity Education Sciences Institute Pub., No: 193.
- Birkan, B. (2001). Küçük Adımlar Kursu'nun Gelişimsel Geriliği Olan Çocuğa Sahip Annelerin Küçük Adımları Uygulama Becerilerini Kazanmalarına Etkisi [The affect of little steps courses on mothers with children with special education needs in getting the ability of application]. *Unpublished Doctoral Dissertation*. Eskişehir Anadolu University, Social Sciences Institute.
- Bradford, K.P., Hawkins, A., Palkovitz, R., Christiansen, S.L., & Day, R.D. (2002). The Inventory of Father Involvement: A pilot study of a new measure of father involvement. *Journal of Men's Studies 10*(2), 183–96.
- Bragiel, J. & Kaniok, P. E. (2011). Fathers' marital satisfaction and their involvement with their child with disabilities. European Journal of Special Needs Education, 26(3), 395–404.
- Cavkaytar, A. (1999). Zihin Engellilere Oz bakim ve Ev Ici Becerilerinin Ogretiminde Bir Aile Egitimi Programinin Etkililigi [The affect of a family education program in teaching self-care and home based skills] Eskişehir: Anadolu University, Faculty of Education Pub., No: 61.

- Cavkaytar, A., Batu, S., Kartal, B., Cetin, O. B., ve Gullupinar, F. (2004). Gelisimsel Geriligi Olan Cocuga Sahip Ailelerin Aile Ozelliklerinin ve Yasadiklarinin Betimlenmesi. [The Description of Family Characteristics with Developmentally Disabled Children, and Family Adjustment Process]. (College Board Rep. No. 030512). Eskisehir, Turkey: Anadolu University.
- Crais, E., Poston Roy, V., & Free, K. (2006). Parents' and professionals' perceptions of the implementation of family-centered practices in child assessments. *American Journal of Speech-Language Pathology*, 15, 365-377.
- Dunn, J., Cheng, H., O'Conner, T. & Bridges, L. (2004). Children's perspectives on their relationships with nonresident fathers: Influences, outcomes, and implications. *Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry*, 45(3), 553-566.
- Easterbrooks, M.A., & Goldberg, W. A. (1984). Toddler development in the family: impact of father involvement and parenting characteristics. *Child Development*, 55(3), 740-752.
- Erickson, M., & Upshur, C.C. (1989). Caretaking burden and social support: comparison of mothers of infants without disabilities. *American Journal on Mental Retardation*, 94(3), 250-258.
- Erkut, S. (2003). *Puerto Rican young fathers' involvement with their children* (Final Report). Center for Research on Women, Wellesley Centers for Women, Wellesley College, Wellesley Massachusetts.
- Evcimen, E. (1996). Zihin Engelli Çocuğu Olan Ailelerin (Anne ve Babaların) Gereksinimlerinin Belirlenmesi [Determination of the needs of parents (mothers and fathers) who have children with special needs]. *Unpublished Master Dissertation*. Eskisehir: Anadolu Univesity, Social Sciences Institute.
- Fagan, J., & Iglesias, A. (1999). Father involvement program effects on fathers, father figures and their head start children: A quasi-experimental study. *Early Childhood Research Quarterly*, 14(2), 243-269.
- Featherstone, B. (2009). *Contemporary fathering. Theory policy practice*. Bristol: The Policy Press.
- Flippin, M., & Crais, E. R. (2011). The Need for More Effective Father Involvement in Early Autism Intervention: A Systematic Review and Recommendations. *Journal of Early Intervention*, 33(1), 24-50.
- Flouri, E., & Buchanan, A. (2003). The role of father involvement in children's mental health. *Journal of Adolescence*, 26, 63-78.
- Floyd, F.J., Gilliom, L.A., & Costigan, C.L. (1998). Marriage and the parenting alliance: Longitudinal prediction of change in parenting perceptions and behaviours. Child *Development* 69(5), 1461–79.
- Grolnick, W. S., & Slowiaczek, M. L. (1994). Parents' involvement in children's schooling: a multidimensional conceptualization and motivational model. *Child Development*. 65(1), 237-252.
- Guler, A. (1992). Ilk yazili Turkce metinlerde aile ve unsurlari. [Family and elements in first written Turkish texts]. *Sosyo-kulturel degisim surecinde Turk ailesi*, I. Cilt, Ankara: T.C. Basbakanlik Aile Arastirma Kurumu Yayinlari, No: 71, 69-81.

- Hastings, R. P., & Beck, A. (2004). Stress intervention for parents of children with intellectual disabilities. *Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry and Allied Disciplines*, 45, 1338–1349.
- Hart, C. H., DeWolf, M. D., Wozniak, P., & Burts, D.C. (1992). Maternal and paternal disciplinary styles: Relations with preschoolers' playground behavioral orientations and peer status. *Child Development*, 63(4), 879-892.
- Hossain, Z. (1992). African-American fathers within dual-earner families: caregiving, functional style, support, and development history. Unpublished doctoral dissertation, Syracuse University, NY.
- Jacobs, J. N. & Kelley, M. L. (2006). Predictors of paternal involvement in childcare in dualearner families with young children. *Fathering: A Journal of Theory, Research, and Practice about Men as Fathers*, 4(1), 23–47.
- Karyelioğlu, S. (2002). Zihin Engelli Cocuklara Sahip Ailelerde Iletisim Sorunları [Communication problems of parents who have children with special needs]. *Unpublished Master Dissertation*. Izmir: Ege Univesity, Social Sciences Institute.
- Kozalıoğlu, G. ve Ekberzade, H. (1994). Zihin Ozurlu Cocukların Ailelerinde Depresyon ve Kaygi Arastirmasi [Research of depresssion and anxiety of parents who have children with special needs]. *Marmara Universitesi Atatürk Egitim Fakultesi Dergisi*, 6, 161-167.
- Lamb, M. E. (1986). The changing role of fathers. In M. E. Lamb (Ed.), *The father's role: Applied perspectives* (pp. 3–27). New York: Wiley.
- Lamb, M. E. (1997). Fathers and child development: An introductory overview and guide. In M. E. Lamb (Ed.), *The role of the father in child development* (3rd edition, pp. 1-18, 309-313). New York: Wiley.
- Lewis, C. (1997). Fathers and preschoolers. In M.E. Lamb (Ed.), *The Role of the Father in Child Development*. (3rd ed., pp. 141-143). New York: Wiley.
- Levy-Shiff, R., & Israelashvilli, R. (1988). Antecedents of fathering: some further exploration. *Developmental Psychology*. 24(3), 434-440.
- MacDonald, E. E., & Hastings, R. P. (2010). Mindful Parenting and Care Involvement of Fathers of Children with Intellectual Disabilities. *Journal of Child & Family Studies*, 19, 236–240.
- Marcus, A.G. (1985). Fathering behavior: the effect of roles, attitudes, and support systems. Unpublished doctoral dissertation, California School of Professional Psychology, Los Angeles.
- Marks, L.D., & Dollahite, D.C. (2001). Religion, relationships, and responsible fathering in Latter-Day Saint families of children with special needs. *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships 18*(5), 625–50.
- May, J. (1997). *Fathers of children with special needs*. New horizons. 2nd ed. Bethesda: Association for the Care of Children's Health.
- Mert, E. (1997). Farklı Ozur Grubunda Cocugu Olan Anne Babalarin Gereksinimlerinin Belirlenmesi [Determination of needs of mothers and fathers who have children with different special needs]. *Unpublished Master Dissertation*. Bolu: Abant İzzet Baysal Univesity, Social Sciences Institute.

- Murray, J., & McDonald, L. (1996). Father involvement in early intervention programs: Effectiveness, obstacles, and considerations. *Developmental Disabilities Bulletin*, 24, 46-57.
- National Center on Fathers and Families (1999). *Predictors of Father and Father Involvement in Pre-Kindergarten Head Start*, (NCOFF Brief: Research & Working Papers Series). University of Pennsylvania: Author.
- Nord, C. W., Brimhall, D., & West, J. (1997). *Fathers' Involvement in Their Children's Schools*. (NCES 98-091). Washington, DC: U. S. Department of Education, National Center for Educational Statistics.
- Nouh, S., Dumas, J.E., Wolf, L.C., & Fisman, S.N. (1989). Delineating sources of stress in parents of exceptional children. *Family Relations*, 38(4), 456-461.
- Ozen, A. (1999). Gelisimsel Yetersizliği Olan Cocukların Annelerine Egitim Uzmanlarıyla Calisirken Gerekli Olan Etkili İletisim Becerilerinin Kazandirilmasi [Teaching effective communication skills which are necessary to work with education specialists to the mothers who have children with developmental disabilities] *Unpublished Doctoral Dissertation*. Eskisehir: Anadolu Univesity, Social Sciences Institute.
- Pleck, J. H. (1997). Paternal involvement: levels, sources and consequences. In M. E. Lamb (Ed.), *The Role of Father in Child Development*, (3rd ed., pp. 66-103). New York: Wiley
- Pleck, J., & Masciadrelli, B. (2004). Paternal involvement in U.S. residential fathers: Levels, sources, and consequences. In M. Lamb (Ed.), *The role of the father in child development* (4th ed., pp. 222-271). New York, NY: John Wiley.
- Piburn, D. E., & Boyce, G. C. (1992). Mother's perception of father's contribution to child care and its influence on mother's perception of stress in families of children with disabilities. Logan: Utah State University, Early Intervention Research Institute.
- Quinn, P. (1999). Supporting and father involvement in families of children who have disability. *Child and Adolescent Social Work Journal*, 16(6), 439-454.
- Radin N. (1981). Childrearing fathers in intact families, 1: Some antecedents and consequences. *Merril –Palmer Quarterly*, 27(4), 489–514.
- Radin, N. (1982). *Paternal involvement in childcare index*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan, School of Social Work
- Radin N. & Harold-Goldsmith, R. (1989). The involvement of selected unemployed and employed men with their children. *Child Development*, 60(2), 454-459.
- Ricci, L. A., & Hodapp, R. M., (2003). Fathers of children with Down's syndrome versus other types of intellectual disability: perceptions, stres and involvement. *Journal of Intellectual Disability Research*, 47(4/5), 273-284.
- Rich, S. (2002). A study of African American fathers' involvement with their preschool children. *Unpublished doctoral dissertation*. Seton Hall University, South Orange, NJ.
- Riposo, M. E. (1991). Father involvement with preschoolers in the home in families with children with disabilities. *Unpublished doctoral dissertation*, State University of New York, NY.

- Roach, M. A., Orsmond, G. I., & Barratt, M. S. (1999). Mothers and fathers of children with Down syndrome: Parental stress and involvement in childcare. *American Journal of Mental Retardation*, 104, 422–436.
- Roopnarine, J. L., & Ahmeduzzaman, M. (1993). Puerto Rican fathers' involvement with their preschool-age children. *Hispanic Journal of Behavioral Sciences*, 15, 96-107.
- Roopnarine, J. L. (1999). Paternal involvement in child care as a function of maternal employment in nuclear and extended families in India. *Sex Roles: A Journal of Research*, 40(9-10), 731-744.
- Sagi, A. (1982). Antecedents and consequences of various degrees of paternal involvement in child rearing: The Israeli project. In M. E. Lamb (Ed.), *Nontraditional families: Parenting and child develop-merit* (pp. 205-232). Hillsdate, NJ: Erlbaum
- Shannon, J. D., Tamis-LeMonda, C. S., London, K., & Cabrera, N. (2002). Beyond rough and tumble: Lowincome fathers' interactions and children's cognitive development at 24 months. *Parenting: Science and Practice*, 2, 77-104.
- Shields, A. M. (1998). Paternal involvement in childcare among African American fathers in intact families: sex role attitudes, childhood paternal relationship, and the acceptance of negative stereotypes. *Unpublished doctoral dissertation*. California School of Professional Psychology, Los Angeles.
- Simmerman, S., Blacher, J., & Baker, B. L. (2001). Fathers' and mothers' perceptions of father involvement in families with young children with a disability. *Journal of Intellectual & Developmental Disability*, 26(4), 325-338.
- Singer, G. H. S., Ethridge, B. L., & Aldana, S. I. (2007). Primary and secondary effects of parenting and stress management interventions for parents of children with developmental disabilities: A meta-analysis. *Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities Research Reviews*, 13, 357–367.
- Smith, D. (1986). The parents' support network: a project based in the London borough of Newham. *Educational and Child Psychology*, 3(3), 119–122.
- Stevenson, D. L., & Baker, D. P (1987). The family-school relation and the child's school performance. *Child Development*, *58*, 1348-1357.
- Sucuoglu, B., Kucuker, S., & Kanik, N. (1993). Anne Babalarin Ozurlu Cocuklarin Egitimlerine Katilimlari. [Parents involvement to education of children with special needs]. *1. Egitim Bilimleri Kongresi Bildirileri*, Adana: Cukurova Universitesi Yayinlari, No: 1, 318-331.
- Suppal, P., & Roopnarine, J.L. (1999). Paternal Involvement in Child Care as a Function of Maternal Employment in Nuclear and Extended Families in India. *Sex Roles*, 40(9/10), 731-743.
- Tamis-LeMonda, C. S., Shannon, J. D., Cabrera, N. J., & Lamb, M. E. (2004). Fathers and mothers at play with their 2 and 3-year-olds: Contributions to language and cognitive development. *Child Development*, 75, 1806-1820.
- Tehee, E., Honan, R., & Hevey, D. (2009). Factors contributing to stress in parents of individuals with autistic spectrum disorders. *Journal of Applied Research in Intellectual Disabilities*, 22, 34-42.
- Tiedje, L.B., & Darling-Fisher, C.S. (1993). Factors that influence fathers' participation in child care. *Health Care for Women International*, 14(1), 99–107.

- Trute, B. (1990). Child and parents predictors of family adjustment in households containing young developmentally disabled children. *Family Relations*, 39(3), 292-297.
- Tylicki, M.B. (2003). Father Involvement and Children's Academic and Social Development *Unpublished doctoral dissertation*, The University of Alabama.
- Ulaşanel, M. (1994). Anne Babaların Durumluk ve Surekli ve Kaygi Duzeyleri ile Zihin Engelli Cocugun Kisisel Uyum Sureci Arasindaki Iliskiler [The relations between the level of anxiety and personal adaptation process of the child with special needs] *Unpublished Master Dissertation*. Eskisehir: Anadolu Univesity, Social Sciences Institute.
- Vuran, S. (2000). Zihin Engelli Cocuk Annelerine Odullendirme ve Elestirmenin Kazandirilmasinda Bilgilendirme, Donut Verme ve Odullendirmenin Etkililigi [The effectiveness of informing mothers who have children with special needs about conferment and teaching criticizing, retürning and conferment]. Antakya: Zirem Pub.
- Williams, E. (1995). Paternal involvement in childrearing and the school performance of Ojibwa children: An exploratory study. *Unpublished doctoral dissertation*, Chicago Read Mental Health Center University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.
- Willougy, J.C., & Glidden, L.M. (1995). Fathers helping out: shared child care and marital satisfaction of parents of children with disabilities. *American Journal on Mental Retardation*. 99(4), 399-406.
- Young, D. M. & Roopnarine J. L. (1994). Fathers' Childcare involvement with children with and without disabilities. *Early Childhood Special Education*, 94(14), 488–502.
- Ziegler, M. E. (1979). The father's influence on his school child's development. *Unpublished doctoral dissertation*. University of Michigan, A.

## Zihinsel Yetersizliği Olan Çocukların Yetiştirilmesine Yönelik Etkinliklerde Baba Katılımı

## Özet

Problem Durumu: Zihinsel yetersizliği olan çocukların eğitimde 'baba katılımı' okul öğrenmeleri ve aile içerisinde çocuğun sağlıklı gelişmi için son derece önemli bir kavramdır. Baba katılımı, çocukla meşguliyet, erişilebilirlik ve sorumluluk olmak üzere üç temel alanı içermektedir. (1) Çocuk bakımında meşguliyet/ilgi; çocukla bire bir etkileşim içerisinde zaman harcamayı kapsar. Burada babayla çocuk arasında doğrudan etkileşim söz konusudur. (2) Erişilebilirlik; çocukla çeşitli aktiviteleri esnasında, örneğin çocuğu giydirme, besleme, temizleme ya da çocuk oynarken orada oturup çocuğun yanında olma şeklinde, çocuk için zaman harcamayı ve çocuğun yanında hazır bulunmayı içerir. Burada baba çocuk etkileşiminin şekli ise dolaylıdır. (3) Sorumluluk; tanımı tam olarak ortaya konulamasa da baba katılımında diğer boyutları arasında en önemli yeri tutar. Sorumluluk, çocuğun bakımı için düzenlemeler yapma, gerekli randevuları ayarlama ve çocuk hasta olduğunda işten izin alma gibi şefkat ve duyarlıkla ilgili etkinlikler şeklinde adlandırılabilir.

Amaç: Bu araştırmanın temel amacı zihinsel yetersizliği olan çocukların yetiştirilmesine yönelik etkinliklerde baba katılımının düzeyinin belirlenmesidir. Bu amaca ulaşmak için araştırmada, anne babaların, zihinsel yetersizliği olan çocukların vetistirilmesine vönelik etkinliklere baba katılımına iliskin değerlendirmelere dayanılarak, (1) babaların zihinsel yetersizliği olan çocuklarının yetiştirilmesine yönelik etkinliklere genel katılım durumları, (2) babaların, zihinsel yetersizliği olan çocuklarının yetiştirilmesine yönelik etkinliklere katılım durumlarının katılım alt alanlarına (katılımın değerlendirilmesi; çocuk bakımı ve sosyalleştirme sorumluluğu; çocuk yetiştirme kararlarında etki ve çocuk yetiştirme görevleri; erişilebilirlik) göre farklılaşıp farklılaşmadığı ve (3) babaların zihinsel yetersizliği olan çocuklarının yetiştirilmesine yönelik etkinliklere katılım durumları ile ailelerin, babaların, annelerin ve çocukların bazı demografik özellikleri arasında ilişki olup olmadığı incelenmiştir.

Yöntem: Araştırma Eskişehir ili merkezinde zihinsel yetersizliği olan çocuklara yönelik eğitim veren özel bir rehabilitasyon merkezinde, kaynaştırma ve destek hizmet uygulamaları dışında bireysel ve grup eğitimi alan, zihinsel yetersizliği olan 41 çocuğun anne ve babasından oluşan 82 kişilik bir katılımcı grubu ile gerçekleştirilmiştir. Araştırma durum saptamaya yönelik betimsel bir çalışma olması yanında, değişkenler arasında ilişki var olup olmadığını ortaya koyan bağıntısal bir çalışmadır. Zihinsel yetersizliği olan çocuk babalarının çocuklarıyla ilgili etkinliklere katılım durumlarıyla ilgili veriler "Çocuk Bakımında Baba Katılımı İndeksi/Anketi

(PICCI)" ile; ailelerin, babaların, annelerin ve çocukların demografik özelliklerine ilişkin veriler ise "Aile Bilgi Formu" yardımıyla toplanmıştır. Araştırmada, babaların zihinsel yetersizliği olan çocuklarıyla ilgili etkinliklere katılım durumları, ebeveynlerin sadece babalara ilişkin yaptığı değerlendirmelere göre ortaya konulmuştur. Verilerin çözümlenmesinde, babaların katılım durumlarını "Aritmetik ortalama" ve "Standart sapma" değerleri hesaplanmıştır. Zihinsel yetersizliği olan çocuk ailelerinin ekonomik düzeyi (aylık hane geliri) ve babanın haftalık çalışma saatleri toplamları ile babaların zihinsel yetersizliği olan çocuklarının yetiştirilmesine yönelik etkinliklere katılım durumları arasında ilişki olup olmadığı belirlemek için "Pearson r bağıntı testi"nden yararlanılmıştır. Zihinsel yetersizliği olan çocuklarının yetiştirilmesine yönelik etkinliklere katılım durumlarının farklılaşıp farklılaşmadığını belirlemek amacıyla "Bağımsız gruplar arası t testi" uygulanmıştır.

**Bulgular:** Araştırmada elde edilen bulgulara sırasıyla bakıldığında, anne baba değerlendirmelerine göre babaların zihinsel yetersizliği olan çocuklarının yetiştirilmesine yönelik etkinliklere genel katılım durumlarının ortalamanın üzerinde olduğu belirlenmiştir. Babaların ve annelerin, baba katılımına ilişkin yaptıkları değerlendirmelerde, babaların sadece "Çocuk Bakımı" alt alanında düşük bir katılım sergiledikleri, diğer katılım alt alanlarında ise zihinsel yetersizliği olan çocuklarıyla ilgili etkinliklere daha yoğun katıldıkları belirlenmiştir. Çocuğun öncelikli bakım sağlama sorumluluğunun ise ağırlıklı olarak anneye ait olduğu bulunmuştur.

Sonuç ve Öneriler: Araştırma bulgularına göre, ailenin ekonomik düzeyi (aylık hane geliri); babanın haftalık çalışma saatleri toplamı; zihinsel yetersizliği olan çocuğun cinsiyeti ile babaların zihinsel yetersizliği olan çocuklarının yetiştirilmesine yönelik etkinliklere katılım durumları arasında anlamlı bir ilişki bulunamamıştır. Aile içi ilişkilerde babanın rolü ve baba çocuk etkileşimine ilişkin literatür, normal gelişim gösteren çocukları merkeze alarak oluşturulduğundan baba katılımının düşük olduğu konusunda genel bir eğilim vardır. Ancak, çocuğun yetersizliğe sahip olması her şeyin önüne geçerek, babaların çocuklarının yetiştirilmesiyle ilgili etkinliklere, anneler kadar olmasa da, aktif katılımını beraberinde getirmektedir. Bu araştırmanın bulguları da, babaların zihinsel yetersizliği olan çocuklarının yetiştirilmesine yönelik etkinliklere katıldıklarını göstermektedir. Bu araştırmanın sonuçları doğrultusunda, çocuğun zihinsel yetersizliğe sahip olmasının baba katılımı üzerinde belirgin bir etkisi olduğu söylenebilir.

**Anahtar Sözcükler:** Çocuk bakımı, baba katılımı, zihinsel yetersizlik, Türk babalar.