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# Ideas about infant and toddler care among Russian child care teachers, mothers, and university students

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### Abstract

Child care center teachers working with toddlers in Moscow and St. Petersburg, mothers with children in these centers, and psychology students at Moscow State University completed questionnaires about their childrearing ideas and feelings. Correlational analyses revealed positive associations among scales tapping valuing of strict adult control over children, obedience in children, and concern with infant spoiling. Each of these variables in turn was positively correlated with superstitiousness and negatively correlated with belief in the importance of talking to infants. Maternal educational level was inversely related to valuing of peer orientation and rule conformity, and positively related to belief in the importance of talking to infants. Respondent age was unrelated to childrearing ideas. Teachers' and mothers' responses were similar on most of the measures; however, teachers indicated less belief in obedience training and greater

valuing of inquisitiveness in children than did mothers. The greatest differences, however, were between students and both mothers and teachers. Students' responses suggested that they held more democratic and modern ideas about childrearing than did mothers and teachers.



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