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JURIRATANA SAENPONG : THE RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN MATERNAL  
CHILD REARING PATTERNS, THE PARENTAL RELATIONSHIP AND THE SELF-  
CONFIDENCE OF PRE-SCHOOL CHILDREN. THESIS ADVISORS : VARATAMA  
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A mother has the most influence on child development during the special period from birth to six years of age. The independent variables in this study were maternal child rearing patterns and parental relationships that may help the child develop love, security, safety, and self-confidence.

The purpose of this survey research was to examine the relationships between maternal child rearing patterns , parental relationships and the self-confidence levels of 200 pre-school children (5-6 years old) at primary schools in Suanluang District , Bangkok . The study sample was selected according to specific criteria. Data were collected by interview, and analyzed by using mean, standard deviation, and Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient.

Results showed that a democratic maternal child rearing pattern had a significantly positive correlation with self-confidence in showing their opinions, comments and responsibilities ( $r = 0.177, p = 0.012$ ). A restrictive maternal child rearing pattern had a significantly negative correlation with self-confidence in logical thinking and appropriate decision making ( $r = -0.151, p = 0.033$ ). The parental relationship had a significantly positive correlation with the child's self-confidence ( $r = 0.307, p = 0.000$  ). This relationship also had a significantly positive influence on the child's adaptation and social interaction skills ( $r = 0.224, p = 0.001$ ).

These findings suggested that parents should provide a democratic maternal rearing pattern by giving love, providing self-help opportunities and reducing self-conflict. Furthermore, a close parental relationship may promote child self-confidence.