Key Words: Father-figure, parents, adolescent, development, morals, values, Mexican-American parents, personality, deviance, childhood.


Topic: Mexican-American fathers

• In situations where the father is absent from the child’s life although the mother acts both roles the mother can never replace the father’s place, there is just an empty feeling for that place the father isn’t there to fill. Each parent has a role in the child’s life making it impossible for one to replace the other. (Saracho & Spodek, 226)

• In situations where parents are equal with work between them raising their children becomes much more successful than in situations where there is no equal relationship between the mother and father. If both parents share the house chores and act in equality the adolescent picks up on these practices and places similar value to both in contrast to the father figure being the authority and mother figure being mainly the nurturer. (Saracho & Spodek, 226)
Assessment: This article is relevant to the topic of the father figure. It provides information on studies made for Mexican-American fathers and the impact their relationship has had on their adolescent’s deviance levels. It strongly supports relationships between fathers and adolescents to be a strong factor in lowering deviance levels. It also brings out the idea that the father figure is irreplaceable in the adolescent’s life, for example in the case of a single mother trying to fill the place of a father.