

THE QUALITY OF CHILD CARE CENTERS, PARENT'S RECOGNITION ABOUT THE QUALITY, AND THEIR SATISFACTION WITH NONPARENTAL CHILD CARE Hyun, O. K., Lee, W.J., & Choi, H.L. Department of Consumer, Child, and Family Studies, Inha University, Inchon 402-751, Korea.

The previous research about parents' satisfaction with child care have not differentiated parents' recognition about child care from their satisfaction with the situation. The person, who does not recognize about a phenomenon, can not judge whether (s)he is satisfied with the phenomenon. Furthermore, the previous research have focused only on mothers' satisfaction and there have been no research focused on fathers'. Thus, the purpose of this study was (1) to differentiate parents' recognition about child care from their satisfaction with the situation and (2) to explore both mothers' and fathers' satisfaction with nonparental child care. The data were collected by questionnaires from 218 mothers and fathers separately whose young children were aged from three to six. The major findings were as follows:

1. The level of both fathers' and mothers' recognition about and satisfaction with child care situation were overall high.
2. Mothers' recognition about child care situation was higher than those of fathers', while mothers' satisfaction with child care was not significantly different from fathers'.
3. Mothers' recognition about child care situation was positively correlated with their satisfaction with child care. And same relationship was found in fathers' perception.
4. Parents' satisfaction with child care situation was influenced by the quality of child centers. The number of children in the class, the ratio between teacher and children, and the distance of child care center were explained fathers' satisfaction with child care situation. Beyond these factors, teacher's training, teaching materials, and outgoing activities were explained mother's satisfaction.

This results show that fathers as well as mothers are interested in their children's nonparental child care and that the quality of the child care center is the important for parents' satisfaction with child care situation.