



# Latina Mothers' Involvement in their Children's Schooling: The Role of Maternal Education and Acculturation

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Working Paper No. 44

July 1999

## ABSTRACT

The present study examined Latina mothers' acculturation and education levels with respect to various sociocultural, personal, and contextual factors related to mothers' level of parental involvement. The sample consisted of 158 Latina mothers, who were the primary care providers of their first grade children. The results indicated that although less acculturated Latinas reported less knowledge about school activities and more barriers to involvement, they also report high levels of perceived efficacy relevant to parental involvement, higher educational expectations, and greater spousal support. The findings highlight the importance of examining the within-groups differences related to Latino populations and questions prevalent assumptions regarding the role of acculturation with regard to parental involvement.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Robert P. Moreno is currently an Assistant Professor of Applied Human Development in the Department of Human and Community Development at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. He received his B.A. in Psychology from UCLA and his Ph.D. in Child and Adolescent Development in the School of Education from Stanford University. He also served as an Illinois Cooperative Extension Service State Specialist. His research examines family influences on children's learning and academic achievement among Latinos and low income families. His current project examines Latina mothers' involvement in the schooling of their children and effective instructional practices in the home.

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