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Math 121-04

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<center>Children's Happiness as a Function of Parental Involvement</center>

I am focusing on this subject because I am trying to become a teacher. Most children are happiest when their parents are active in their lives. Through time spent in the classroom I have noticed that students whose parents are more involved in their lives are typically happier, more productive students. Due to this observation I have concluded that children's happiness is a function of parental involvement, but the model does not work in every situation.
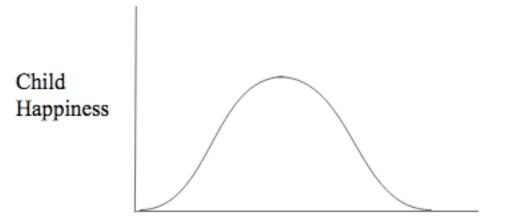
Parental Involvement has numerous variables, some of which are not measurable variables. The measureable variables being analyzed are the number of hours spent playing with the kid, the number of family dinners, the amount of money spent on the child, and the number of functions attended. All of these are easy to measure and track because each time one thing was attended the parent would get a point or an hour for spending an hour with the child, but they only touch the surface of things that are important to raising a happy child. The number of times the parents attend events for their kids, the number of meals made, or the amount of money spent on them does not create a happy child because it is more emotional than buying a toy or watching them play the tuba. There are many more factors that would affect this.

The immeasurable variables are how healthy the relationship is between the parents, if the child has a favorite parent, and the relationship between the child and the

parents. These variables pay a part of how happy the child will be but are not able to be accurately measured. Measuring the health of the relationship between parents would take hundreds of variables on its own to determine, and the same for the health of the relationship between the parents and child. These would need to look at things like similar interests, the circumstances around the birth of the child, and how the parents were treated as children. Some children might have a favorite parent which would also need to be considered, but as to what kind of numerical weight to give that variable.

The next difficult is to measure the happiness of the child. Some of the ways to measure these are to have them rate their happiness on a scale from one to 10. This works, but it is self-graded so it is not completely accurate. Another way to measure this is to count the number of smiles a day. That method not only seems silly, but also is not accurate because not all smiles are genuine, and that would throw the data off. Real happiness is an immeasurable variable. It is not possible to put a number to that part of the function.

This graph would be a concave down graph that makes a parabolic shape because at the beginning of the graph the amount of time spent with children is low and the happiness level is low. Both of the points are low because the child is unhappy since the parent is spending a minimal amount of time with the child. In the middle the happiness and time spent with them is increased because there is the most effective amount of time spent with the child to make their level of happiness the highest. The furthest part of the graph is back down to being low again. This is because the parents are spending too much time with the child and are seen as hovering or smothering the child. While it is great to be around your kid and support them they also should have some alone time.

Below is a sketch of what I would consider this graph to look like .but is not possible to

actually compute because of the number of variables and the immeasurable variables

though it is worth contemplating on a case to case level.

Child
Happiness

Hours of Parental Involvement