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## **Media as mediators of the parent-child relationship**

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### **Chapter Summary**

The use of media in the context of the family contributes to satisfaction of needs, problem resolution, entertainment and the formation of personal and social identity. It can be a reason of conflict as well as a resource for the cohesive coexistence of the family. Research evidence indicates a possible relationship between parent-child relational quality and media use. Parent-child relationship has been studied through different approaches, e.g. the attachment theory, and theories examining the overall quality of the relations developed during the first years of life and later on. The relations' quality appears multifactorial and includes several dimensions such as, affection, responsiveness, communication, recreational activities and conflict. Low levels of parent-child quality result in deficiencies, that the child may seek to cover through various means available according to his/her age, mostly through media use. The affluent presence of media in the family environment absorb a large portion of the child's and the parent's leisure time, while at the same time the relationship and communication among family members involve many media-related activities. We conclude that family media use are closely related to important dimensions of the parent-child relational quality, which if improved, could result to the child's better control of media use.

**KEY-WORDS:** Parent-child relational quality, media use