

# Child Friendly Community: Multi Dimensional Exploration of Inter-Generational Interaction Mode

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**Abstract:** It has become the key goal of the current renovation of existing residential areas to build a full-age friendly facility space system that promotes benign inter-generational interaction, with the core of meeting the needs of elderly care and childcare. Based on the construction of child friendly community, this paper discusses the multi-dimensional exploration of inter-generational interaction mode. This paper analyzes the concept, characteristics and development status of child friendly community, and expounds the importance of inter-generational interaction and its impact on community development. This paper focuses on the inter-generational interaction mode of three dimensions: space environment, activity design and system construction, and puts forward corresponding strategies and suggestions. The study found that by optimizing the design of community space, innovating the form of activities and establishing a long-term mechanism, it can effectively promote inter-generational interaction and promote the construction and development of child friendly communities. This study provides a theoretical basis and practical guidance for building a harmonious and inclusive child friendly community.

**Keywords:** Child Friendly Community; Inter-Generational Interaction; Space Design; Activity Innovation

## 1. Introduction

With the acceleration of urbanization and the change of population structure, building a child friendly community has become an important issue in the development of modern cities. The guidance on promoting the construction of child friendly cities issued by the national development and Reform Commission in conjunction with 22 departments pointed out that the construction of child friendly cities places people's yearning for a better life and is

related to the growth and development of children and a better future. <sup>[1]</sup>The guidelines for the construction of Children Friendly spaces in cities (Trial) pointed out that the construction of friendly spaces should be promoted at three levels of cities, blocks and communities, and the key work contents include the appropriate transformation of public service facilities, road space, park green space, and the construction of off campus activity places and recreation facilities. <sup>[2]</sup>Child friendly communities not only pay attention to children's physical and mental health and development needs, but also emphasize the important role of inter-generational interaction in community construction. The notice on carrying out the establishment of a demonstrative national elderly friendly community proposed to improve the ability and level of community service, better meet the needs of the elderly in terms of living environment, daily travel, health services, elderly care services, social participation, spiritual and cultural life, explore the establishment of a working mode and long-term mechanism for the establishment of elderly friendly communities, and effectively enhance the sense of acquisition, happiness and security of the elderly. <sup>[3]</sup>At the same time, guide and organize the elderly to participate in community construction and management activities, participate in community charity, education, science, culture and health, and support the elderly in the community to carry out self-help, mutual assistance and voluntary activities, which creates more opportunities and platforms for inter-generational interaction and promotes inter-generational exchanges and cooperation in community affairs. As a link connecting different age groups, inter-generational interaction is of great significance for promoting community harmony and inheriting cultural values. The purpose of

this study is to explore the multi-dimensional construction of inter-generational interaction mode in child friendly communities, and propose effective strategies to promote inter-generational interaction through the analysis of space environment, activity design and system construction, so as to provide theoretical support and practical guidance for the construction of child friendly communities.

## **2. The Concept and Development of Child Friendly Community**

Child friendly community refers to a community model that takes children's needs as the core and provides children with safe, healthy and inclusive growth space by optimizing the community environment and improving services and facilities. This concept originates from the "child friendly cities" initiative of the United Nations Children's fund, which emphasizes the integration of children's rights and needs into urban planning and policy-making. The main characteristics of child friendly communities include safe physical environment, perfect educational and medical resources, rich cultural activities and decision-making mechanisms that encourage children to participate.

In recent years, significant progress has been made in the construction of child friendly communities around the world. Many countries and regions have formulated relevant policies and standards to promote the improvement of community environment and the improvement of children's services. For example, Canada's "child friendly city" program and Japan's "child rearing support community" construction.<sup>[4]</sup> In China, Beijing, Shanghai and other cities have also carried out pilot work of child friendly cities, exploring a child friendly construction mode suitable for local characteristics at the community level.<sup>[5]</sup> These practices have accumulated valuable experience for the further development of child friendly communities.

## **3.Theoretical Basis of Inter-Generational Interaction**

### **3.1 The Concept of Inter-Generational Interaction**

inter-generational interaction refers to the interaction process between different inter-generational groups through communication, cooperation, sharing and other ways. This interaction not only includes the

exchange of material level, but also involves the transmission of emotion, knowledge and culture. In child friendly communities, inter-generational interaction is regarded as an important social support system, which can provide children with a diversified growth environment.

## **3.2 Theoretical Model of Inter-Generational Interaction**

### **3.2.1 social exchange theory**

Social exchange theory emphasizes that the two sides will weigh the costs and benefits in the process of interaction. In inter-generational interaction, children can obtain knowledge, experience and emotional support from the elderly and adults, while the elderly and adults can obtain psychological satisfaction from the vitality and fresh perspective of children. This interaction is a mutually beneficial and win-win process.

### **3.2.2social learning theory**

Social learning theory holds that individuals learn by observing and imitating the behavior of others. In inter-generational interaction, children can learn social norms, moral standards and life skills by observing the behavior of adults and the elderly. This learning process is of great significance for children's socialization.

## **4.The Practical Significance of Inter-Generational Interaction in Child Friendly Communities**

### **4.1 Promoting the All-Round Development of Children**

Childhood is a critical stage for individual learning and growth. inter-generational interaction provides children with rich learning resources. In inter-generational interaction, children can be exposed to the wisdom and cultural heritage of people of different ages. The elderly and adults can impart knowledge, experience and cultural traditions to children and help children establish correct values and norms of behavior. In addition, inter-generational interaction can enhance children's social skills and cultivate their sense of empathy and responsibility.

The inter-generational interaction of old and young people has a positive impact on the mental health of the elderly by establishing

close interpersonal relationships between the elderly and young children. <sup>[6]</sup>In addition, inter-generational interaction helps to cultivate children's empathy and communication skills. In the communication with adults and the elderly, children learn to listen to and understand the views of others, and enhance their emotional cognition and expression ability. The cultivation of this ability is of great significance for children's future social communication and interpersonal relationship building.

#### **4.2 Enhance Community Cohesion**

inter-generational interaction breaks down inter-generational barriers and promotes exchanges and cooperation between different groups in the community. By participating in community activities together, the elderly, adults and children can establish a deep emotional bond and enhance the cohesion and sense of belonging of the community. This interaction not only promotes the emotional exchanges between community residents, but also forms a positive community cultural atmosphere. In this atmosphere, residents' sense of identity and belonging to the community has been continuously enhanced, and they are more willing to contribute their own strength to the development of the community and jointly maintain the harmony and stability of the community.

#### **4.3 Optimize The Utilization of Community Resources**

People of different ages have different resources and advantages. Through inter-generational interaction, resource sharing and complementary advantages can be achieved. For example, the elderly have rich time and life experience and can provide care and education guidance for children; <sup>[7]</sup>While children are full of vitality and creativity, and can bring new ideas and vitality to the community. As an intermediate force, adults have accumulated certain social resources and professional skills in their work and life. They can coordinate the relationship between all parties in inter-generational interaction and promote the development of community projects. The integration and utilization of such resources can improve the efficiency and quality of community services, meet the needs of residents of different ages, and make the community an organic whole.

### **5.Multi Dimensional Exploration of Inter-Generational Interaction Mode in Child Friendly Community**

In the process of building a child friendly community, the effective exploration of inter-generational interaction mode is very important. It covers multiple dimensions such as space, activities and systems. Each dimension is interrelated and synergistic, and jointly promotes the harmonious development of inter-generational relations in the community and the optimization of children's growth environment.

#### **5.1 Spatial Dimension: Building Inter-Generational Shared Space Field**

##### **5.1.1 community activity center**

The spatial layout and facility allocation of communities to a large extent affect the frequency and quality of inter-generational interaction. As the core area of community public activities, the community activity center should be built into a key hub for inter-generational interaction. Through the reconstruction of public space areas and the construction of diversified public facilities, the interaction between children and peer groups, children and parents will be strengthened.<sup>[8]</sup> Through scientific planning, set up multi-functional and complex activity rooms, such as the multi-functional hall equipped with advanced multimedia equipment, which can be used to hold various cultural lectures and knowledge sharing meetings, so that different generations of groups can collide and exchange ideas here; It can also be used as a small art performance venue to show their talents. The well-designed book corner displays children's picture books, teenagers' books, adult professional books and health care and historical and cultural books suitable for the elderly to meet the reading needs of all ages and promote inter-generational knowledge-based interaction. The workshop is equipped with complete hand tools and rich materials. The community regularly organizes inter-generational hand inheritance activities. For example, the elderly who are proficient in traditional weaving, paper cutting, ceramics and other crafts are invited to teach children ancient skills, so that children can feel the charm of traditional culture in

practice. At the same time, the emotional ties between generations can be strengthened in interaction.

#### 5.1.2 outdoor public space

The outdoor public space in the community, such as parks and squares, is also a natural platform to promote inter-generational interaction. Reasonably plan these spaces and set up diversified amusement facilities and leisure areas according to the physical functions and interests of people of different ages. Set up a safe and creative recreation area for children, equipped with swings, slides, climbing frames, etc; Create a comfortable fitness and leisure area for the elderly, and arrange facilities such as Tai Chi practice venues and massage trails; At the same time, set up sports areas suitable for adults, such as badminton courts, table tennis tables, etc. By organizing the inter-generational games and setting up relay races, parent-child tug of war, interesting shooting and other events, different inter-generational groups can cooperate and encourage each other in sports, enhance the emotional ties between generations, and create a happy and harmonious community atmosphere. Children's access to a sense of security, interesting game space and rich and diverse participation opportunities in community life are important factors to strengthen the emotional bond between children and the community and cultivate children's Pro social tendencies. Therefore, only the community construction planning that is committed to comprehensively improving the degree of child friendliness, the community activities that cultivate child friendly assets in the community, and the community governance mechanism that includes children's participation in the residents' deliberation and consultation system can have a sustained impact on the cultivation and positive socialization of children's prosocial behavior.<sup>[9]</sup>

## 5.2 Activity Dimension: Planning Multi Integrated Intergenerational Activity System

### 5.2.1 cultural heritage activities

Intergenerational activities are the direct carrier to promote communication between different intergenerational groups. Rich and diverse forms of activities can meet the needs of people of all ages and stimulate the vitality of intergenerational interaction. Cultivate the community characteristic cultural service of "the old with the young and the young with the old".<sup>[10]</sup> Cultural inheritance activities bear the

important mission of continuing the national cultural blood and enhancing cultural identity in intergenerational interaction. The community can actively tap local traditional cultural resources, invite opera artists, calligraphy masters, paper cutting experts and other elderly folk artists to carry out traditional culture inheritance classes. Regular opera appreciation and teaching activities are held to let children feel the beauty of opera singing and posture in close proximity; Organize calligraphy training courses, from basic strokes to calligraphy works creation, the elderly patiently guide children, and experience the charm of Chinese character writing; Carry out paper-cut workshops, teach paper-cut skills, and cut out auspicious patterns, so that children can appreciate the breadth and depth of traditional culture in learning, and strengthen their identification and love for their national culture.

### 5.2.2 voluntary service activities

As an effective way to cultivate social responsibility and dedication, voluntary service activities play a unique role in intergenerational interaction. With rich life experience and wisdom, the elderly in community organizations use professional knowledge and skills to serve as children's learning guidance, psychological companionship and other volunteer services. For example, retired teachers help children with their lessons, and medical staff give lectures on children's health knowledge; At the same time, organize children to participate in community environmental protection publicity, care for the elderly and other voluntary service activities, cultivate their awareness of caring for others and society from an early age, and realize the transmission and sublimation of their sense of responsibility in the joint participation of generations.

### 5.2.3 parent child activities

Parent child activities are not only an important form of intergenerational interaction within families, but also a basic unit of intergenerational interaction in communities. The community carefully planned the parent-child games, set up interesting competitive events such as parent-child relay and family tug of war, and enhanced the cooperation and tacit

understanding among family members; Organize parent-child reading activities, create a warm reading atmosphere, cultivate children's reading habits, and promote emotional communication between parents and children. In addition, expand the main body of parent-child activities, invite grandparents to participate, and carry out activities such as next-generation parent-child handicrafts, family culture inheritance story sharing, so as to further enrich the level of intergenerational interaction and inherit family culture and values.

### **5.3 Institutional Dimension: Building a Long-Term Guarantee Mechanism for Intergenerational Interaction**

#### **5.3.1 community organization structure**

A sound institutional system is an important guarantee for the sustained and stable development of intergenerational interaction. It provides support for intergenerational interaction from the organizational structure to incentive and training mechanisms. The community should establish a special and systematic intergenerational interaction organizational structure, which is responsible for the overall planning and coordination of various intergenerational interaction activities. With the help of the organizational structure of "two committees of the community - social workers - community planners - Community talents - community residents", <sup>[11]</sup>an intergenerational interaction Committee was established, whose members include community staff and are responsible for organizing activities and allocating resources; Elderly representatives, providing experience and suggestions; Parents' representatives to express family needs and opinions; Children's representatives reflect the ideas and expectations of children's perspective. Through regular meetings, we can jointly discuss the intergenerational interaction plan and activity plan, ensure that the activities are close to the needs of all age groups, and enhance the pertinence and effectiveness of the activities.

#### **5.3.2 incentive mechanism**

In order to stimulate the enthusiasm and initiative of community residents to participate in intergenerational interaction, the community needs to establish and improve the incentive mechanism. For the elderly and adults who actively participate in intergenerational interaction activities, material rewards will be given, such as the issuance of daily necessities,

cultural consumption vouchers, etc; At the same time, honor recognition was carried out, and its advanced deeds were publicized on community bulletin boards and social media platforms to enhance the sense of honor. For children who perform well in intergenerational interaction, the certificate of "little messenger of intergenerational friendship" will be issued, and opportunities will be given to show in community activities to encourage more children to participate in intergenerational interaction.

#### **5.3.3 training mechanism**

Enhancing residents' awareness and ability of intergenerational interaction is the key to promote the in-depth development of intergenerational interaction. The community should regularly organize intergenerational interaction training activities, invite sociological experts to carry out intergenerational communication skills training, explain the psychological characteristics and communication methods of people of different ages, and improve the effect of intergenerational communication; Hold lectures on children's psychological knowledge to help adults and the elderly better understand children's behavior and psychological needs, and provide more considerate care and guidance for children, so as to comprehensively improve the overall level of intergenerational interaction among community residents.

### **6. Conclusion**

Intergenerational interaction has important practical significance in child friendly communities, and provides a solid foundation for building a harmonious and inclusive community environment. By promoting the process of children's socialization, intergenerational interaction helps children learn social norms, develop empathy and communication skills, and enhance their social adaptability. At the same time, intergenerational interaction has become an important way of cultural inheritance. By sharing life experience and traditional cultural knowledge, the elderly enrich children's knowledge reserves and enhance their sense of identity with traditional culture. In addition, intergenerational interaction helps to enhance the cohesion and vitality of the community,

enhance the understanding and trust among residents and enhance the sense of belonging of the community through the organization of cross age activities. In response to the challenges of population aging and fewer children, intergenerational interaction alleviates the pressure on resources and enhances the elderly's sense of social participation and value by promoting mutual assistance between the elderly and children. Intergenerational interaction also has a positive effect on mental health and well-being. The elderly and children get emotional support in the interaction, relieve loneliness and enhance well-being. In the future, we should further explore and innovate the mode of intergenerational interaction through policy support, capital investment and community publicity, so as to provide sustained impetus and guarantee for the sustainable development of child friendly communities.

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