

The Impact of Living at Home during the COVID-19 on Young Children's Disruptive Behaviours

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Abstract : This study used the multidimensional rating scale for disruptive behaviour in preschool children (parent version) to assess changes in the disruptive behaviour (tantrums, disobedience, aggression, and low level of concern for others) of 200 young children in Nanjing, Jiangsu Province, China, before and after living at home during the new crown epidemic, and five additional teachers of young children were selected to conduct interviews on the performance and changes in their disruptive behaviour at school. The following conclusions were drawn from the questionnaires and interviews: (1) 49% of the children showed a decrease in disruptive behaviour compared to the pre-epidemic period; (2) boys were more disruptive than girls due to individual factors; (3) children with a decrease in disruptive behaviour were more likely to have democratic and authoritative parenting styles due to parental education and upbringing; and the higher the level of parental education, the greater the decrease in disruptive behaviour. (4) For parents who worked outside the home during the epidemic and who did not work, disruptive behaviour scores were higher for their children. Meanwhile, disruptive behaviour was more pronounced the longer the child used electronic devices. The longer the parent-child interaction, the less disruptive behaviour was evident.

Keywords : disruptive behaviour, home life, children, COVID-19

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