What Factors Contributed to the Adaptation Gap during School Transition in Japan?

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Abstract : The present study was aimed to examine the structure of children's adaptation during school transition and to identify a commonality and dissimilarity at the elementary and junior high school. 1,983 students in the 6th grade and 2,051 students in the 7th grade were extracted by stratified two-stage random sampling and completed the ASSESS that evaluated the school adaptation from the view point of 'general satisfaction', 'teachers' support', 'friends' support', 'anti-bullying relationship', 'prosocial skills', and 'academic adaptation'. The 7th graders tend to be worse adaptation than the 6th graders. A structural equation modeling showed the goodness of fit for each grades. Both models were very similar but the 7th graders' model showed a lower coefficient at the pass from 'teachers' support' to 'friends' support'. The role of 'teachers' support' was decreased to keep a good relation in junior high school. We also discussed how we provide a continuous assistance for prevention of the 7th graders' gap.

Keywords: school transition, social support, psychological adaptation, K-12

Conference Title: ICEP 2015: International Conference on Educational Psychology

Conference Location : Paris, France **Conference Dates :** June 25-26, 2015