

MOTHER'S EMOTIONAL RESPONSE AS A CONTRIBUTING FACTOR IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF PROSOCIAL BEHAVIOR

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Abstract

In everyday life, we dedicate to mutual benefit of others a considerable portion of our time and effort. Thus, behaviors such as support and comfort a friend who is in a difficult situation, to provide information to a person, goods or money to give to disadvantaged categories of peers, to actively participate in a team of volunteers etc., prove that we are concerned with the welfare of our fellow men. The present study aimed to evaluate the dimensions of prosocial behavior in preschool children in terms of sharing and cooperation and their association with mother's emotional response to the child's behavior. The group of participants consisted of 63 children of which 24 were male and 39 female. The average age for boys was 5.33 and the average age for girls was 5.28. The results indicate that in building social behavior the child takes into account the reaction to his positive behavior, and not the negative response to his behavior. In other words, reinforcing positive behavior and not punishing negative behaviors is the key in developing prosocial behavior.

Keywords: prosocial behavior; emotional response; emotional expression

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