

TRAINING FAMILIES TO ELIMINATE CORPORAL PUNISHMENT ON CHILDREN

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Abstract:

Submitting children to violent and physical discipline has negative consequences. Several studies have found significant associations between corporal punishment and various negative effects, like emotional and behaviour problems; internalisation of the violence; poor quality of relationship between parent and child; aggression; delinquency; criminal or antisocial behaviour, etc.

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CDC) requires that States should “take all appropriate legislative, administrative, social and educational measures to protect the child from all forms of physical or mental violence,(...), while in the care of parents, legal guardians or any other person who has the care of the child” (article 19). In its General Comment 8, the Committee has emphasized the importance of promoting positive, non-violent and participatory approaches of parenting and education. This is one of the goals of the European project “Hands up” that has developed different strategies to awareness the harms of corporal punishments on children and to promote the adoption of positive discipline practices among parents and children caregivers.

In this work we present the objectives and preliminary results of Spanish positive discipline parent’s training. Six training groups were organized in different social services and 81 parents have participated. The Discipline Inventory (DDI) of Straus and Fauchier was filled in before and after the training. Results show what aspects are easier to change with the training and what other presents more resistance. Conclusions offer recommendations to the children’s protection from corporal punishment.

Keywords: corporal punishment, children, positive discipline, training, parents, caregivers