



Children's
SOCIETY

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Research Bites

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MCI (P) 036/07/2018

ISSUE 5 • JULY 2018

page 1 - 2

**Programme Evaluation
Feature - Storm Riders**

page 3 - 4

**Young Adults' Recall
of School Bullying**

page 4 - 5

**Spotlight:
Profile of Children
Hospitalised For
Alleged Child
Maltreatment**

page 6-7

**Compulsory Education
Casework Study**

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Programme Evaluation Feature - Storm Riders

feature by Research Officer Jerrine Khong



Participants



45 children
9 to 12
years old

who displayed
behavioural
problems

What We Measured

Before and after attending Storm Riders...

- Children were asked how they would respond to situations which could make them angry



- Teachers reported children's classroom behaviours using a checklist



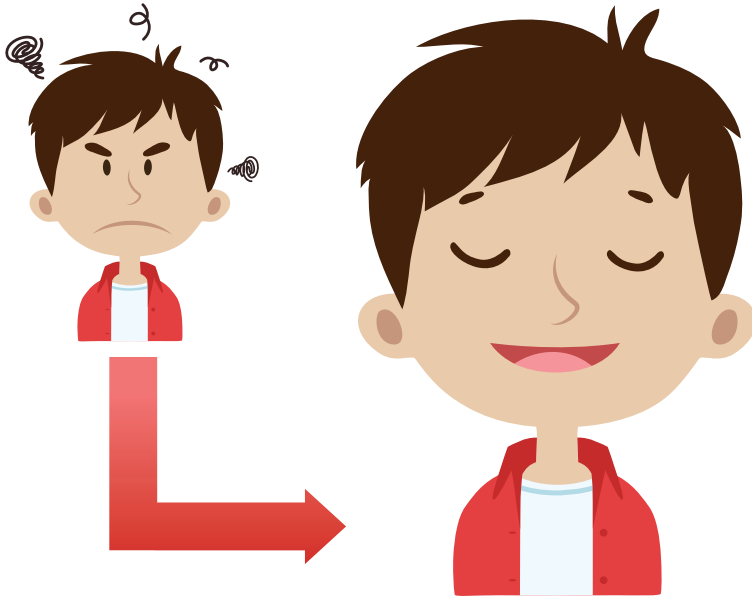
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Programme Evaluation Feature - Storm Riders

(continued...)

AFTER THE PROGRAMME

When responding to situations that would make them angry, children reported:



Fewer aggressive behaviours

e.g., hitting or throwing something



Fewer aggressive thoughts

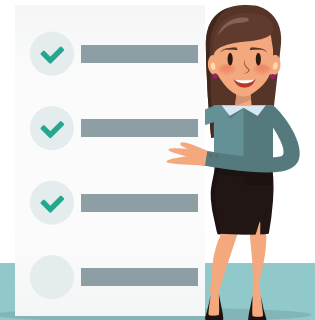
e.g., thinking about how to take revenge



Improvements (although very small) were also found in children's assertive behaviours (e.g., telling an adult) and thoughts (e.g., thinking and deciding how to handle an angry situation)

Based on teacher observations, children displayed:

- » Fewer disruptive behaviours (e.g., fighting, yelling at others)
- » More prosocial behaviours (e.g., showing empathy and compassion for others' feelings)



LEARNING POINTS

Storm Riders effectively reduces children's aggressive responses and increases their positive classroom behaviours.

However, programme delivery could be modified to include more opportunities for children to practise using assertive responses to situations that make them angry.

The Talks and Workshops Programmes Centre aims to promote the well-being of children, youth, parents and caregivers through talks and workshops conducted in a fun and experiential manner.

To find out more about Storm Riders or other programmes, please contact the centre at twp@childrensociety.org.sg.



Young Adults' Recall of School Bullying

feature by Research Officer Jerrine Khong and Research Intern Foo Jiyin



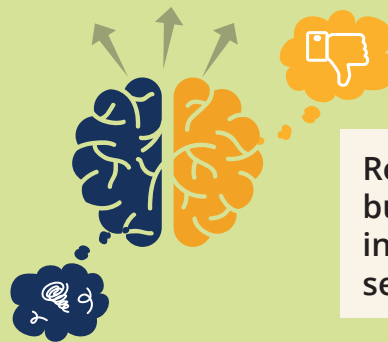
Study conducted in 2009

METHOD

We asked 600 young adults aged 25 to 29 years old to:



Rate their current well-being



Recall their past bullying experiences in primary and secondary school

WE FOUND THAT

Compared to those who were not bullied, **young adults who were bullied in the past reported:**

- » Higher levels of depression
- » Poorer well-being
- » Lower self-esteem

NOTE

Group differences, though statistically significant, were small

To reduce or prevent bullying, the most common method suggested by **young adults** was to **seek help**



Young Adults' Recall of School Bullying

(continued...)

What can victims do to help themselves?



You can do the Hi 5!



Visit bullyfree.sg for more information

Spotlight!

Research Grant Recipient

Dr Ngiam Xin Ying was a recipient of the Singapore Children's Society Research Grant in 2013. Together with 4 co-authors, she completed this study as part of her Advanced Specialist Training in Paediatrics at the National University Hospital (NUH), Singapore.

feature by Research Officer Lui Zhi Jing

Profile of Children Hospitalised for Alleged Child Maltreatment

Method Review of 90 NUH inpatient records of children admitted from 2010-2012

Of the 90 cases studied:

70% 7 to 18 years old

9 years old on average

Over half of the alleged perpetrators were **fathers**



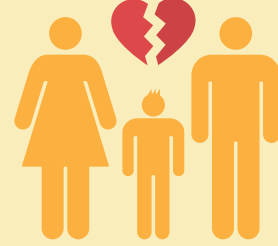
Top 3 Risk Factors



History of repeated family violence



Families experienced financial difficulties



Had divorced or separated parents

30%

were known to child protection

About

Half

were males

15%

had at least one developmental disorder

Attention Deficit-Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) was the most common diagnosis in this group of children

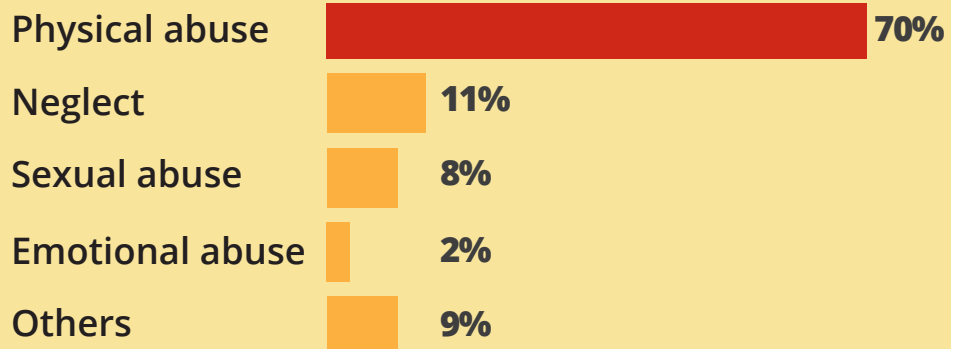


Implications

- 1** Early screening would provide support to families with risk factors of child maltreatment
- 2** As the rates of developmental disorders are high among children experiencing maltreatment, these children should be screened for developmental delays

PHYSICAL ABUSE

was the most common form of alleged maltreatment



To read more, refer to the article

Ngiam, X. Y., Kang, Y. Q., Aishworiya, R., Kiing, J., & Law, E. C. N. (2015). Child maltreatment syndrome: Demographics and developmental issues of inpatient cases. *Singapore Medical Journal*, 56(11), 612-617. doi: 10.11622/smedj.2015169

Compulsory Education Casework Study

feature by Lead Research Officer Denise Liu



Under the Compulsory Education Act, all Singaporean children have to attend school regularly and complete primary school education

Since 2003, our caseworkers have been working with families whose children are:

- » Not registered for school (non-registration cases)
- » Not attending school regularly (non-attendance cases)

We reviewed 160 non-attendance cases closed between 2003-2012 to find out:

- » The difficulties they faced
- » Whether age at referral was related to school attendance
- » Whether preschool education was related to school attendance and PSLE outcomes



Top 3 Difficulties

#1

Parent's Issues

- Unmotivated to work on school attendance issues
- Permissive parenting

#2

Child's Issues

- Unable/refuses to wake up for school
- Unmotivated to attend school

#3

Family Issues

- Parent in prison
- Family violence
- Conflict between parents

Age at referral

As compared to children of other ages, the highest percentage of children were referred at **11 years old**



Age at referral and school attendance at case closure:

With every **one year increase** in age at referral, children were

1.5 times

more likely to continue to have irregular attendance despite intervention

Compulsory Education Casework Study

(continued...)

Compared to children who completed preschool,



children with no preschool education were...

4.9 times

more likely to fail their PSLE on their first attempt

6.1 times

more likely to have school attendance issues at case closure



Implications

1

Problems with school attendance are a reflection of **underlying issues** faced by both parents and children

2

Parents should ensure that children attend preschool regularly and complete **preschool education**

3

Parents, teachers and professionals should work toward **early identification and intervention** for children having school attendance issues

Volunteers needed

Singapore Children's Society is conducting a research study on resilience

Who can join?

- ▶ Children born between 2003 and 2008 and their main caregiver
- ▶ From households with a monthly Gross Household Income (GHI) of \$4,000 or less, or Per Capita Income (PCI) of \$1,000 or less



What will happen?



- ▶ Caregivers will complete a survey. Children will complete a survey and problem-solving tasks
- ▶ Survey takes about 1 hour for caregivers and 1.5 hours for children. It can be done at home or a place of convenience
- ▶ A \$20 NTUC voucher will be given as a token of appreciation

Organisations who refer clients for the Resilience Study will receive

A de-identified summary report of participants for referring
10 or more caregiver-child pairs



A free talk on Resilience by an experienced clinical psychologist and trainer for referring
30 or more caregiver-child pairs



Referral process

- 1 Ask client for permission to release contact information
- 2 Email the client's contact information to us
- 3 We will set the appointment and conduct the survey

Want more details?

Call **8267 1930** or email **Jasmine** at jwong@childrensociety.org.sg to ask about the Resilience Study

Research Bites, Singapore Children's Society's bi-annual research newsletter, aims to make research findings more accessible to interested members of the public and professionals working with children. With its easily digestible visual format, Research Bites aims to acquaint readers with our research – both completed and in progress – and research-related information. Research Bites is available at www.childrensociety.org.sg/research-bites.

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