
ABSTRACT

A study on the psychological process of mothers of adolescents with school non-attendance

MAEDA, Toshie

Counseling and Psychotherapy Center, University of Human Environments

SUZUKI, Mikie

University of Human Environments

Recently, the importance of support for mothers when providing assistance for children with school non-attendance and the difficulties in mother-child relationship involving an adolescent with school absenteeism have been pointed out. We examined the psychological process of mothers of adolescents with school non-attendance. We conducted semi-structured interviews with ten mothers of children enrolled in upper elementary grades to high school, who were experiencing school non-attendance. We used the modified grounded theory approach to analyze the data. Thirty-seven concepts, 14 sub-categories, and five categories emerged. The five categories were “bewilderment and wounding of mother”, “birth pangs of renewing the mother-child relationship”, “lack of understanding from surrounding people”, “support from surrounding people,” and “renewal of mother-child relationship”. Due to children’s non-attendance of school, mothers develop feelings of failure and guilt and sometimes direct their anger toward children. However, when mothers recognize that their children are so hurt to the extent that they wish to die, then the mothers think that it is enough if their children live. This leads to a renewed mother-child relationship.

Key Words: puberty, school non-attendance, mother-child relationship, renewal, psychological process
