

The relations among temperament, peer relationship and problem behavior in adolescence

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ABSTRACT

The first purpose of the study was to explore the relations among temperament (activity level, emotionality, sociability), peer relationship (caring, help, companionship, intimate exchange, conflict resolution), and problem behavior (externalizing problem behavior, internalizing problem behavior) in adolescence. The second purpose of the study was to examine peer relationship variables which were stronger predictor of problem behavior variables than were temperament variables and mediated the relations between temperament indicator and problem behavior in adolescence. There were five hundred ninety-nine (305 boys and 294 girls) fifth and sixth, seventh, eighth and ninth grade students from ten junior high schools and ten elementary schools in Taiwan. Materials were used including (a) Temperament Questionnaire (revised Hsieh, 2008), (b) Peer relationship Questionnaire (Parker and Asher, 1987), (c) Problem Behavior Questionnaire (Achenbach, 1991). The reliability and validity for the instruments of Temperament Questionnaire, Peer relationship Questionnaire and Problem Behavior Questionnaire was checked and was satisfactory. The research results were summarized as follows: 1. Temperament predicted peer relationship: temperament and peer relationship were associated. Multiple regression analyses indicated that activity level, emotionality, sociability positively predicted peer relationship. 2. Temperament predicted problem behavior: temperament and problem behavior were associated. Multiple regression analyses indicated that activity level, emotionality, sociability positively predicted problem behavior. 3. Peer relationship predicted problem behavior: peer relationship and problem behavior were associated. Multiple regression analyses indicated that caring, help, companionship, intimate exchange, conflict resolution negative predicted problem behavior. 4. Peer relationship as mediators between temperament and problem behavior.

Keywords : temperament、peer relationship、problem behavior

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