

Research for Empowering the Parents of Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder

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Keywords: Empowerment, ASD, support for raising children with ASD

Empowerment has long been a topic of special interest in the field of welfare. However, research into empowerment usually focuses on disabled people and mothers of healthy children. In this study, based on the points of the structure of and support for Empowerment of Individuals (Asahara, 2000), the author conducted a study into the conditions of empowerment toward objectives for suggestions for support for those engaged in raising children with autism spectrum disorders (ASD).

For the study, three parents belonging to a habilitation group for ASD children were selected as subjects to undergo a semi-structured interview. After the interview, analysis was made using the KJ method. As a result, a common condition of empowerment for three cases was grasped as helpful information for those engaged in raising children with ASD, and it was possible to confirm one relevant aspect when attempting to decide a course for raising children with ASD by gathering information after the disclosure of a child's disorder, using various methods. Through this result, a method of support can be suggested for the empowerment of parents engaged in raising children with ASD such that, by preparing surroundings, it is easy to gather information by knowing about a place that offers information regarding raising children with ASD. This is in addition to providing specific teaching guidance on how to gather adequate information regarding habilitation groups and classes for ASD children.