

The Process of a Mother's Acceptance of Her Child's Developmental Disability and the Support that They Require

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In many studies regarding the process of a mother's acceptance of her child's disability, mothers with children in infancy have participated in the research so far undertaken. However, a mother's feelings have been seen to change along with her child's development.

In this study, the participants consisted of nine mothers whose children had developmental disorders, such as a learning disability. The purposes of this research were as follows: (1) to clarify the process of a mother's acceptance of the developmental disability that her child at an elementary, junior high, and high school level has; and (2) to clarify the support that such a mother needs. A semi-structured interview was thus conducted. Verbatim records were analyzed using the modified grounded theory approach. The result of the analysis suggested that many mothers had the experience of giving up even if they had already accepted their child's disability. The results also indicated that various forms of support were needed by these mothers, who requested such from parental associations, their child's school, and from society at large. It is thus important to respond to these diverse needs.