

The Meaning and Role of Talking about Experience When Students Cannot Attend School

– Through group meetings at an authorized independent school –

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Today, students who cannot attend school do have various support mechanisms available to them. However, some research and theories suggest a need for rethinking what the shape of such support should be. This study thus focuses on a common form of support: group meetings at an authorized independent school. The purpose of this study is to disclose the meaning and role in which students talk about their experience when they cannot attend school, at the group meetings. The method used involved participant observation during these group meetings. Thus, this study analyzes the recordings of participant observation. The results show that each student undergoes a change in the definition of their experience through these group meetings. In addition, the results show that talking about experience when students cannot attend school has therapeutic, educational, and mental developmental effects. The author concludes that it is necessary for students who cannot attend school to take the opportunity to change their definition of experience and to promote education within themselves.