

Examining Parent Training Acceptability Among High and Low-Income Undergraduates

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Approximately 6% of parents report that their 4-17 year-old children exhibit behavioral or emotional difficulties. Across levels of socio-economic status (SES), behavior problems are generally more common among children from low SES backgrounds. When Behavioral Parent Training (BPT) programs are available to this population, acceptance and attendance rates are low, as well as adherence. Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT) is an effective BPT for parents and children between the ages of 2 and 7 with significant behavior problems. However, acceptability of PCIT has not been widely researched. One study found that low-income parents rate some components of PCIT as acceptable, but report low acceptability of PCIT overall. Even though young adults may be in caregiving roles, no studies were found examining acceptability of PCIT with nonparental caregivers. This study compared PCIT acceptability among high and low-income undergraduate psychology majors. Six hundred two psychology undergraduate students completed an online assessment of child behavior and PCIT acceptability. Results indicate that there was not a significant difference in students' income level and PCIT acceptability, $F(1,411) = .017, p = .897$.

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