

ABSTRACT

An Investigation Into the Strategies Mothers Use to Build Positive Social Behaviours in Their Sons: Do They Need a Parent Education Programme?

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This qualitative study, in the tradition of phenomenology, explored the following research questions: 1) What are mothers' ideas about grooming positive social behaviours in the early years? and 2) What practices have mothers been using to help their children learn positive behaviours? The study sought to gain an understanding of strategies mothers use to build positive social behaviours in their sons and to learn how mothers felt about the implementation of a parenting programme. Data were collected primarily via interviews from four mothers of 4- to 5-year-old sons who were selected through purposive sampling. Findings showed that the four mothers believed that their children needed early socialization skills to help them "be something good" when they reached adulthood. The mothers believed that they did not need a parenting programme but were willing to attend one if it was convenient to them. Interestingly, they felt that such a programme would benefit others in the community. Disciplining strategies used by the mothers included talking and reasoning about appropriate behaviours, using obscene language, licks, and shouting.

Keywords: Socialization; Boys; Males; Mothers; Parent child relationship; Parent responsibility; Social behavior; Parent education programmes; Trinidad and Tobago