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A comparison of parenting of developmentally disabled and typically developing children

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The aim of this study was to compare parenting, stress and problematic child behaviour in developmentally disabled (DD) and typically developing (TD) children across two child age groups. 115 parents (55 parents of DD children, 60 parents of TD children) participated in the study. Fifty-seven children were three-to five-years-old and 58 were nine- to 11-years-old. Measures used were Rickel and Biasatti's (1982) modification of Block's (1981) Child Rearing Practices Report, and the Parenting Stress Index Short Form (Abidin, 1995). Results showed that parents of DD children experienced more stress and found their children's behaviour more problematic than did the parents of TD children, for both younger and older age groups. No differences in parenting practices were found for the two parent groups but use of authoritative parenting style with age of child was different across parent groups. Possible reasons for this are explored.

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