

## **Requests for Parents and Homeroom Teachers of First Graders : Important of Emotional Support**

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### ***Abstract***

*The purpose of this study is to find out the specific needs of 1st graders for parents and homeroom teachers. The research questions of this study are as follows. Research question 1. What does 1st grader want from parents? Research question 2. What does the 1st grader want for the homeroom teacher? There were 31 participants. Data collection was conducted by focus group interview. Requests for parents are summarized as 'what 1st graders want from parents', and requests for teachers are summarized as 'what 1st graders want from homeroom teacher'. As the detailed topics of 'What 1st graders want from parents' are 'I have too much work to do, so I want to reduce it', 'Don't just scold me' 'Like in kindergarten, play with me' and 'I'm so hard. Take care of me'. As the detailed topics of 'what 1st graders want from homeroom teacher.' are 'At first it was exciting', 'Scary teacher, I hate it', 'Friendly teacher, good', 'Teacher, please praise me' and 'Teacher, please teach me fun'. We revealed that the emotional support of parents and homeroom teachers is important for 1st graders to successfully adapt to elementary school.*

**Keywords:** *Elementary School Adaptation, 1st Grader, Parent, Homeroom Teacher, Emotional Support*

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

1st graders in elementary school are having difficulty adjusting to school [1]. Children of kindergarten and 1st graders of elementary school have a psychological proximity to development, and kindergarten and elementary schools are often confused by 1st graders due to the gap between curriculum, teaching environment, and teacher role [2]. Like this, 1st graders feel that the difference between kindergarten and elementary school is so huge.

There is a need to find appropriate ways to support 1st graders. First graders are developmentally psychologically similar to kindergarten children [1]. Being in 1st grade in elementary school does not mean that 1st graders suddenly grow psychologically. Parents' warm parenting style helps children adapt to elementary school [3]. Also, the intimacy between teachers and 1st graders helps children to psychologically adapt to school [7].

On the other hand, there are previous studies that the first graders' home environment variables and school adaptation do not match [4-6]. It is necessary to focus on the first graders, not the first graders' home environment variables. Parents and homeroom teachers have a huge influence on 1st graders [3, 8, 9]. 1st graders can easily adapt to school life when teachers use encouraging language [10]. The purpose of this study is to find out the specific needs of 1st graders for parents and homeroom teachers who have a great influence on 1st graders.

The research questions of this study are as follows.

Research question 1. What does 1st grader want from parents?

Research question 2. What does the 1st grader want for the homeroom teacher?

## 2. METHODOLOGY

### 2.1. Participants

31 elementary school children in Seoul, Incheon, Gyeonggi and Gangwon participated. Participants were selected among the 1st graders who participated in the Korea Institute of Child Care and Education's primary child adaptation support research.

### 2.2. Data Collection

Data collection was conducted by focus group interview. The period was from June to July 2017. First, the researcher explained to the interviewer the purpose of the interview and the point of the question. Next, the interviewer held a focus group interview with 2 to 4 children in the 1st grade of elementary school. A total of 31 children were interviewed 12 times.

### 2.3. Data Analysis

All data collected through interviews were transferred. Based on the interview data, the participants' requests for parents and teachers were underlined. Requests for parents are summarized as 'what 1st graders want from parents', and requests for teachers are summarized as 'what 1st graders want from homeroom teacher'. As the detailed topics of 'What 1st graders want from parents' are 'I have too much work to do, so I want to reduce it', 'Don't just scold me' 'Like in kindergarten, play with me' and 'I'm so hard. Take care of me'. As the detailed topics of 'what 1st graders want from homeroom teacher.' are 'At first it was exciting', 'Scary teacher, I hate it', 'Friendly teacher, good', 'Teacher, please praise me' and 'Teacher, please teach me fun'.

## 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### 3.1. What 1st Grader want from Parents

#### 3.1.1. I have too much work to do, so I want to reduce It.

1st graders had too much to do. Children have a lot more work to do than when they go to kindergarten. The children struggled because of the increased homework and the amount of study to be done.

"I want my parents to do my homework instead to me." (2017.07.06. 7<sup>th</sup> child, 8<sup>th</sup> child, 9<sup>th</sup> child, 10<sup>th</sup> child)

"My mom always tells me everyday. Do workbook that I didn't." (2017.07.15. 28<sup>th</sup> child)

### **3.1.2. Don't just scold Me.**

1st graders understood that they became elementary school students. But, 1st graders struggled because they were constantly scolded by their parents. They wanted their parents to encourage them rather than get angry.

“My dad keeps getting mad at me, so I wanted to swallow him.” (2017.07.09. 12<sup>th</sup> child)

“I feel like my mom and dad are getting mad at me.” (2017.07.11. 16<sup>th</sup> child)

“I want my mom and dad to hug me, kiss me, and stroke my hair as before.” (2017.07.08. 21<sup>st</sup> child)

### **3.1.3. Like in Kindergarten, play with Me.**

1st graders were having trouble ignoring their saying. In the past, parents played with their children a lot, but when children became elementary school students, 1st graders said their parents didn't play anymore.

“Even if I say kindly, my mom ignores me. Ignore everything. Except that I did my homework.” (2017.06.23. 25<sup>th</sup> child)

“I want my parents to play with me on the playground.” (2017.07.16. 19<sup>th</sup> child)

“I want to cook something after school, but my parents don't do anything with me, together. I want my parents to play with me.” (2017.07.16. 19<sup>th</sup> child)

“My dad never played. My mom played just once. My mom played with scab. I want to play with Dad, but I can't play because Dad is busy.” (2017.07.08. 22<sup>nd</sup> child)

### **3.1.4. I'm so hard. Take care of Me.**

1st graders were missing the time they were with their families. 1st graders were struggling with school adaptation and wanted to overcome with their families. Also, 1st graders wanted to do difficult homework together.

“It's good for my mom to take care of my younger brother or sister. By the way, I want my mom to take care of me a lot.” (2017.07.11. 15<sup>th</sup> child)

“I want to go on a trip with my dad. I don't want to go to school, I really want to go on a trip.” (2017.07.04. 3<sup>rd</sup> child)

“I wish I could be together. Only stay together in the morning. My mom keeps ignoring my words, my elder brother is busy doing homework, and my dad comes in late. I want to do it together when I do my homework.” (2017.06.23. 25<sup>th</sup> child)

## **3.2. What First Grader want from Homeroom Teachers**

### **3.2.1. At first It was Exciting.**

Before children entered school, their expectations for elementary school were high. As an admissions gift, the children had a lot of things they wanted to have and received a lot of gifts. The beginning of elementary school in the first grade was full of excitement.

“My heart was pounding before I met the teacher.” (2017.07.09. 13<sup>th</sup> child)

“I was nervous at the entrance ceremony, but I was glad that my teacher was not afraid. My teacher introduced the school and the classroom.” (2017.07.09. 12<sup>th</sup> child)

“My heart pounded on the day of the entrance ceremony. My mom bought a lot of crayons, pastels for me. I received a lot of gifts, too. I was excited because I said that I use it at school.” (2017.07.11. 14<sup>th</sup> child)

### **3.2.2. Scary Teacher, I hate It.**

1st graders hated scary teachers. 1st graders were worried their teacher should tell not to do much them with a strict attitude. 1st graders thought that their teacher scolded them inconsistently.

“In kindergarten, the teacher wasn't strict. Then, when I come to elementary school, my teacher is very strict. It's so different.” (2017.07.09. 12<sup>th</sup> child)

“The elementary school teacher is so scared. I'm very scared when teacher get angry. I feel I'm scolded at any time by teacher. My kindergarten teacher was sometimes a little angry, but now my elementary school teacher is much scarier. I wish my teacher was less angry.” (2017.07.01. 1<sup>st</sup> child)

“When I cry sometimes because I am embarrassed or sad, the teacher is angry at me.” (2017.07.11. 15<sup>th</sup> child)

“There are too many things not to do. My teacher told me not to run in the hallway, and not to make a loud noise.” (2017.07.01. 2<sup>nd</sup> child)

### **3.2.3. Friendly Teacher, Good.**

Children wanted a kind teacher. Children hated corporal punishment and scolding by their teacher. They wanted the teacher to take them to the playground so that the children could play. They also wanted their teacher to be kind and calm.

“I want my teacher to be kind. My teacher doesn't hit. Instead, let it stand for 10 minutes.” (2017.07.09. 13<sup>th</sup> child)

“The nursery center teacher was always kind, but the elementary school teacher kept yelling at me. I want my teacher to be kind and my teacher to take us to the playground.” (2017.07.11. 18<sup>th</sup> child)

“I'm not scared. My teacher explained to me in words. My teacher helped me adjust.” (2017.07.08. 21<sup>st</sup> child)

“When the teacher scolds me, I want to listen calmly, 'You shouldn't be swearing like that.'” (2017.07.15. 23<sup>rd</sup> child)

### **3.2.4. Teacher, please praise Me.**

Children hated being scolded by their teacher and wanted to be praised by their teacher. Also, children disliked being pointed out by their teacher. Children wanted their teacher to wait even if it was a little slow, and wanted to be praised after they had done something.

“I want my teacher to compliment me.” (2017.07.09. 13<sup>rd</sup> child)

“If I'm wrong, please praise. Praise me even if I finish late.” (2017.07.06. 10<sup>th</sup> child)

### **3.2.5. Teacher, please teach Me fun.**

Children wanted their teacher to teach them in a fun way. In particular, their teacher expressed that it was very fun and exciting when their teacher taught using characters. When the children were tired and difficult, they said that if the teacher teaches them with fun and kindness, they will feel energized.

“Our teacher is having fun. It's fun in class. You know, Kakao Friends. My teacher teaches using Kakao Friends characters. I count how many. My teacher is also using other interesting characters in the class.” (2017.07.07. 29<sup>th</sup> child)

“Sometimes I have a hard time. In that case, I don't want to do too much, but if my teacher teaches me with fun, I want to do it again.” (2017.07.07. 30<sup>th</sup> child)

#### 4. CONCLUSION

The conclusion of this study is as follows. First, 1st graders wanted their parents to help them adjust to elementary school. When their children became 1st graders in elementary school, some of parents were repeatedly saying to study without playing anymore. Suddenly, when parents ask children for a different way of life, it is difficult to accept it. We suggest Emotional support from first graders by parents is needed. Second, 1st graders were hoping for a positive attitude from their homeroom teacher. The negative images that 1st graders had about their homeroom teacher was 'fear', 'not friendly', 'not praised', and 'no fun'. In order to support 1st graders' adjustment to elementary school. We suggest it is necessary for their homeroom teacher to support them emotionally. Overall, the results of this study revealed that the emotional support of parents and homeroom teachers is important for 1st graders to successfully adapt to elementary school. In order to increase the school's adaptability to the 1st graders, it is important to raise the parents' interest and the teacher's gentle attitude toward the children.

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