

Kindy pressure blamed for abuse of younger children

Beatrice Siu

Friday, November 22, 2013

Against Child Abuse saw twice as many children aged three to five in trouble last year, probably because of pressures arising from kindergarten education.



The child advocacy group said it handled 188 cases of abuse among preschoolers, compared with 88 in 2011 in the three-to-five age group.

The 188 comprised 20 percent of the 930 children affected in 1,093 reports and inquiries to its hotline.

Eighty-eight cases involved children aged two or below. Another 211 children were aged six to eight.

Director Jessica Ho Oi-chu believes those at primary schools or below are abused owing to the fierce competition in education. She described the situation as worrying.

"In previous circumstances, the pressure increased as children studied in primary school because of homework and school selection. But now we see that it has been extended to kindergartens, with both parents and children under pressure," Ho said.

"Besides learning, children aged three or below need to play as well. Parental relationships may become more tense without the necessary space for doing so," she added.

Against Child Abuse suggests putting more resources into early prevention, such as supporting single mothers and families with newborn babies.

Parents should also be taught how to care for their offspring more positively, with an increased awareness of safety.

Of the reports and inquiries to its hotline, 378 concerned suspected child abuse, of which 166 - or 44 percent - were confirmed.

A total of 79 cases involved negligence of 109 children. This was up on the 44 cases in 2011.

Of the neglected children, 44 were left home alone. A quarter were aged three to eight years old.

"Leaving children home alone is dangerous and may be fatal. Parents and carers could be liable for negligence," the group said.

Fifty-three cases involved sexual assault and 50 psychological issues.

Qiqi, a single mother, sought help from the group after she became addicted to alcohol to relieve the stress of raising her two-year-old daughter.

Once, she was found to have tied her daughter to a bed to prevent her from falling or climbing windows.

The volunteers shared home-safety tips and helped to install window bars.

The Standard 英文虎報 Friday, November 22, 2013

Kindy pressure blamed for abuse of younger children

Beatrice Siu

Against Child Abuse saw twice as many children aged three to five in trouble last year, probably because of pressures arising from kindergarten education.

The child advocacy group said it handled 188 cases of abuse among preschoolers, compared with 88 in 2011 in the three-to-five age group.

The 188 comprised 20 percent of the 930 children affected in 1,093 reports and inquiries to its hotline.

Eighty-eight cases involved children aged two or below. Another 211 children were aged six to eight.

Director Jessica Ho Oi-chu believes those at primary schools or below are abused owing to the fierce competition in education. She described the situation as worrying.

"In previous circumstances, the pressure increased as children studied in primary school because of homework and school selection. But now we see that it has been extended to kindergartens, with both parents and children under pressure," Ho said.

"Besides learning, children aged three or below need to play as well. Parental relationships may become more tense without the necessary space for doing so," she added.

Against Child Abuse suggests putting more resources into early prevention, such as supporting single mothers and families with newborn babies.

Parents should also be taught how to care for their offspring more positively, with an increased awareness of safety.

Of the reports and inquiries to its hotline, 378 concerned suspected child abuse, of which 166 — or 44 percent — were confirmed.

A total of 79 cases involved negligence of 109 children. This was up on the 44 cases in 2011.

Of the neglected children, 44 were left home alone. A quarter were aged three to eight years old.

"Leaving children home alone is dangerous and may be fatal. Parents and carers could be liable for negligence," the group said.

Fifty-three cases involved sexual assault and 50 psychological issues.

Qiqi, a single mother, sought help from the group after she became addicted to alcohol to relieve the stress of raising her two-year-old daughter.

Once, she was found to have tied her daughter to a bed to prevent her from falling or climbing windows.

The volunteers shared home-safety tips and helped to install window bars.

beatrice.siu@singtaonewscorp.com



Jessica Ho, right, with Qiqi, says children at primary schools or below are being abused due to the fierce competition. JACKIELO

Reference:

http://www.thestandard.com.hk/news_detail.asp?pp_cat=11&art_id=139853&sid=40947055&con_type=1