

***Preventing Punitive Violence:
Early Outcomes of the Positive Discipline in Everyday Parenting Program***

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Since its creation in 2007, the *Positive Discipline in Everyday Parenting (PDEP)* program has aimed to prevent violence against children of all ages by enhancing parental knowledge and skills, fostering healthy parent-child relationships, and promoting non-punitive resolution of parent/child conflict. Based on Ajzen's (2002) social cognitive Theory of Planned Behaviour (TPB), PDEP has been designed to reduce parents' approval of physical and emotional punishment, normalize parent-child conflict, and strengthen parents' self-efficacy in using non-punitive problem solving with their children.

Matched pre- and post-program measures of these variables have been collected in 86 programs in Canada since 2012, yielding a sample of 596 parents. Pre/post comparisons show significant shifts in parents' attitudes and beliefs. Following the program, parents are significantly less likely to approve of physical or emotional punishment, significantly more likely to view typical parent-child conflicts as normative, and significantly more likely to perceive themselves as capable of non-punitive problem solving. Further, large majorities view the program as effective in helping them reduce their use of physical punishment (88%) and control their anger (95%), and in helping them communicate better with their children (98%) and build stronger relationships with their children (99%). This poster will provide an overview of the program, describe our sample, summarize our major findings and describe our future research plans.