

李振清等

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Parents Need to Handle Children with Care, Even When Yelling

父母教养孩子要当心,大声责骂时亦然

By Bonnie Rothman Morris 撰稿:邦尼•罗思曼•莫里斯 解析导读:梁欣荣 翻译:冯克芸



- 1 The thing about children is that sometimes they misbehave. They disobey. They say rude things. They ignore their chores and fight with their siblings.
- Even the most patient parent can be driven to yell. Indeed, yelling at children is so common in American households that most parents view it as an inevitable part of childrearing.
- But in some cases, researchers say, yelling can become a form of emotional abuse. And children whose parents frequently raise their voices or combine yelling with insults, criticism or humiliation may suffer from depression, low self-esteem and aggression.
- While physical abuse of children has been widely studied, child development specialists have begun to focus more attention on emotional abuse, which studies suggest can be equally harmful. In 2002, the American Academy of Pediatrics reported that "a chronic pattern of psychological maltreatment destroys a child's sense of self and personal safety."
- Almost every parent yells sometime. A 2003 study by Dr. Murray A. Straus and Carolyn J. Field, published in *The Journal of Marriage and Family*, found that 88 percent of the 991 families interviewed reported shouting at their children in the previous year.

2 即使最有耐心的父母都会被迫对孩子大呼小叫。的确, 责骂孩子在美国人的日常生活中相当普遍,普遍到许多家长 视之为教养子女不可避免的一部分。

3 但研究人员指出,在某些案例中,大声斥责会变成一种情绪虐待;父母如果经常扯开嗓门,或外加羞辱、批评或剥夺孩子的自尊,孩子可能变得消沉,自尊心低落及爱挑衅。

4 二 人们对孩子身体受到虐待已有广泛的研究,如今儿童成长专家开始着重情绪虐待的研究。多项研究发现,情绪虐待跟肉体虐待一样会造成伤害。2002年美国小儿科学会曾经指出,"慢性心理虐待会摧毁儿童的自我及个人安全感"。

5 几乎每个家长偶尔都会责骂孩子。斯特劳斯博士及卡罗琳·菲尔德博士在一项发表于 2003 年《婚姻与家庭期刊》上的研究中发现,他们访问的 991 个家庭中,88%曾在受访前一年大声斥责孩子。

- In another study, not yet published, Dr. George Holden at the University of Texas and his **colleagues** followed 132 parents and their newborn infants over four years. 35 percent of the parents reported yelling at their children before they were one. By the time the children were four, 93 percent had yelled.
- Not all children suffer as a result. Researchers say that the **tone**, the message and the frequency determine the effects of yelling. "The difference comes in how the yelling is used," said Bonnie Harris, a parent educator in New Hampshire and author of When Your Kids Push Your Buttons: And What You Can Do about It.
- "If the child is being held responsible for the parent's feelings and behavior, then the yelling can have a **deleterious** effect. But not if the parent is just **venting** without blame, saying, 'I am really angry, I **can't stand** this anymore,' "Mrs. Harris said. "You have just as much right to your emotions as your children do."
- Researchers are trying to understand emotional abuse and its effects. A study in the July 2001 issue of *The American Journal of Psychiatry* found that emotional abuse was the most significant **predictor** of **mental** illness.

得州大学的霍尔登博士及其同事在尚未发表的一项研究中花了四年时间追踪 132 位家长及其新生儿。结果 35%的家长表示,他们在子女不到一岁时就曾大声责骂孩子,到子女四岁时,93%的家长曾大声吼过孩子。

7 🗊

并非所有被吼的孩子都会受伤害。研究人员说,大声责骂的影响取决于家长吼叫时的声调、讯息及发生频率。著有《孩子把你惹毛了:你该怎么办》一书的新罕布什尔州亲职教育人员邦尼·哈里斯说:"差异在家长怎么个吼法。"

8 🖃

邦尼·哈里斯说:"如果孩子觉得该为父母的感觉及行为 承担责任,斥责就会有负面效果。如果父母只是表达感受而 未归咎于孩子,只说'我真的很生气,我再也受不了这个',就 不会有负面效果。"她还说:"父母跟孩子一样,都有权表达情 绪。"

9

研究人员正在努力了解父母对孩子的情绪虐待及其影响。2001年7月发表在《美国精神病学杂志》上的一项研究显示,情绪虐待是精神疾病最重要的预测指标。

- Dr. Straus, director of the Family Research Laboratory at the University of New Hampshire, said yelling could **set a bad example** for children that affects the way they handle social interactions later on. "Yelling sets the tone for family relationships that carry over for **dating** relationships where you get a lot of psychological aggression," Dr. Straus said.
- 11 Still, in the **context** of a **supportive** family, raised voices do not necessarily **signal** trouble, a recent study in *The Journal of Emotional Abuse* says. Some experts even say that yelling can be useful.
- "Children have to understand that we as parents are not perfect and every once in a while we **lose it**," said Dr. Bennett Leventhal, director of child and **adolescent** psychiatry at the University of Chicago. "It's far better to understand at home that sometimes people **get beyond their limit**."

10

新罕布什尔大学家庭研究实验室主任斯特劳斯博士说, 大声吼叫可能会给孩子立下坏榜样,影响孩子日后社交互动 的方式。斯特劳斯说:"父母对子女叫骂会习惯成自然,孩子 会把这些种模式带到和异性交往的关系中,常产生心理上的 冲突。"

11 🗁

但最近发表在《情绪虐待期刊》上的一项研究指出,在互 相扶持的家庭中,父母提高嗓门未必表示会有问题。有些专 家甚至说, 叱责可能有用。

12 🗊

芝加哥大学儿童及青少年精神医学科主任利文撒尔博 士说:"孩子必须了解,做父母的并不是完美的,我们偶尔会 失控。"他还说:"让孩子在家里了解人有时行事会逾短,远比 让孩子到别处了解要好。"

単词解说

◎ to handle (something) with care (词组) 小心处理或 (移动货物时) 小心置放

包裹或贵重商品的包装盒子上常标明 "Fragile! Handle with care." (容易破裂,小心轻放)等警告文字。

◎ chore /t∫ɔː/ n. 每天必须做的琐事

常用复数 chores。

household chores 家中日常琐事,诸如打扫、煮饭、买菜、整理杂物等。

- ◎ sibling /ˈsɪblɪŋ/ n. 手足,兄弟姊妹 sibling rivalry 兄弟 (姊妹) 竞争。
- ◎ inevitable /ɪn'evɪtəbl/ *adj.* 无法避免的,必将发生的War is inevitable. 战事无可避免。an inevitable outcome 无可避免的结果。
- ② childrearing /'tʃaɪldˌrɪərɪŋ/ n. 养儿育女 rear 是养大的意思,动词说法是 to bring up children 或 to raise children。
- ◎ abuse /ə'bjuːz/ n. 滥用 (权力、资源);粗鲁的行为或言语可相当于下文的 maltreatment。动词是abuse,形容词 abusive 是言语行为有暴力倾向的。

an abusive husband 会打太太的丈夫。 self-abuse 是自虐的意思。

- **◎ to raise one's voice** (词组) 生气时说话提高声调,咆哮相当于 to yell 或 to holler。
- **② humiliation** /hju,mɪlɪ'eɪ∫ən/ n. 羞辱,使人难堪
 The defeat was quite a humiliation. 这个失败颇令人难堪。
- ◎ depression /dɪ'pre∫ən/n. 情绪低落;抑郁症

He suffers from depression. 他有抑郁症。

- ◎ **self-esteem** /ˌselfɪ'stiːm/ n. 自尊
 Some people have very low self-esteem. 有些人很瞧不起自己。
- ◎ aggression /ə'gre∫ən/ n. 攻击 形容词 aggressive 有正面 (积极进取的) 和负面 (攻击性强的) 两种意义。
- **◎ chronic** /'krɒnɪk/ *adj*. 长期的,慢性的 chronic illness 慢性疾病。
- **◎ maltreatment** /ˌmæl'tri:tmənt/ *n.* 虐待,不正当对待相当于前面的 abuse。动词是maltreat。
- ◎ colleague /'kɒliːg/ n. 同事 相当于 associate 或 co-worker。
- ◎ tone /təun/ n. 语调,口气 He speaks in a conciliatory tone. 他语气让步。 dial tone 拨号音。 ring tone 来电铃声。
- ◎ to push someone's buttons (词组) 惹恼某人 相当于 to annoy or upset someone。
- ◎ **deleterious** /,dell'tɪərɪəs/ *adj*. 有害 (健康) 的 相当于 harmful 或 detrimental,但较为少用。
- ◎ vent /vent/ v. 发泄 (思想、情绪或脾气)
 He vented his frustration on the cat. 他拿猫出气。
- ◎ can't stand (词组) 无法容忍 She just can't stand his arrogance any more. 她再也忍受不了他的傲慢。
- **◎ predictor** /prɪ'dɪktə/ *n*. 预知讯号 相当于 indicator。
- ◎ mental / mentəl / adj. 精神上的,心理上的

有时相当于 spiritual。
mental comfort 精神上的安慰。
mental illness 精神病。
mental patient 精神病患。

- ◎ to set a bad example (词组) 开启不良示范 Your carelessness sets a bad example for the children. 你的粗心大意给孩童不良的示范。
- ◎ dating /'dertɪŋ/ adj. 约会的 名词 date 指约会或约会对象。 dating service 专门替人安排约会对象的公司。 double date 两对男女一起约会。
- ◎ context /'kontekst/ n. 上下文范围,大范围,所处环境
 Her remark was taken out of context. 她的评语被断章取义。
- ◎ **supportive** /sə'pɔːtɪv/ *adj.* 表达支持态度的,表达关爱照顾的 So far my parents have been very supportive. 到目前为止我的父母都很支持我。
- ◎ signal /'sɪgnəl/ v. 发出讯号,显示
 The ruling effectively signaled the end of the monopoly.
 此一判决等于宣告垄断结束。
- ◎ lose it (词组) [口语] 脾气失控,大为光火 She really lost it when he broke the vase. 他打破花瓶时她勃然大怒。
- ◎ adolescent /ˌædəʊˈlesənt/ adj. 青少年时期的
 Obsession with pop singers is an adolescent thing.
 崇拜偶像歌手是青少年常有的事。
- ◎ to get beyond one's limit (词组) 此处指情绪或脾气爆发或失控 He certainly got beyond his limit when he hit that kid. 他打那孩子时着实出手过重。

解析导读

本文一开始时的 The thing about ... 是口语或非正式表达时常用的说法。通常用来指出或强调人或事物已经存有或无可避免的特质。譬如要说硬盘一定会坏可以用: The thing about hard disks is that they always crash.钱总是不够是 The thing about money is that there is always not enough. 换个角度来看本文的主旨,也可以说 The thing about parents is that they (sometimes) yell at their children. (父母总会跟小孩大声)。换成直述句来表达经常会发生的事时,动词可用简单现在式,如: Hard disks crash. (硬盘会坏), Parents yell at children. (父母会跟小孩生气), Accidents happen. (意外总会发生), Germs breed. (细菌本来就会滋生)等。

在本文前几段谈到父母习惯咆哮,尤其是加上批评、辱骂等不当言语时,可能会严重影响孩子的心理健康,造成人格受损。人格受损的人成长后有可能变成唾弃社会或被社会唾弃的人,英文称之为 social misfit 或 outcast。这类人在社交场合会扫兴,所以通常不受欢迎,英文称之为 party pooper、spoilsport 或 killjoy。他们的特征包括缺乏自信(lack of confidence)、自尊心不足(low self-esteem)、自我埋没(self-effacing)、独来独往(a lone wolf)、反社会(anti-social)、悲观(pessimistic)、不友善(hostile 或unfriendly)、不合群(incompatible)、话语尖酸(cynical)、凡事采取负面态度(negative)、破坏心重(destructive)、有失败倾向(a defeatist)、内外不检点(indecent)、容易与人冲突(prone to conflict 或 confrontational)、反制度及威权(antiestablishmentarian或 anti-authority)等。上面这些都是不健康的(unwholesome)心态。孩子们在成长年龄(formative years)中模仿大人的一举一动,所以做父母的要能扮演正面楷模(set a good example 或 play positive role models),养育子女更要有耐心和爱心,才能引导孩子正面的人格发展。这就是本文标题中Handle Children with Care 要表达的意思。

对别人大声是不礼貌 (impolite 或 rude) 亦不理性 (irrational) 的行为。语言暴力是verbal abuse。粗暴或肮脏的语言是abusive language。英文 yell