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AGNÈS ROS-MORENTE, M. ÀNGELS CABASÉS PIQUÉ AND GEMMA FILELLA GUIU
University of Lleida

Conflicts among peers in the playground in a group of Spanish elementary schools

ABSTRACT

1. *This study aimed to analyse and explore through systematic observation the conflicts that occur among peers during the playground in elementary schools in Spain.*
2. *The study followed a non-experimental descriptive design and all conflicts were observed in their natural context of 44 schools. Among the 1691 conflicts detected in a sample of 2529 students, significant differences were found among the different types of conflicts (verbal, physical, social exclusion and sexual harassment), which depended on the course and sex of the protagonists. Furthermore, a different pattern emerged in the reactions that other peers and teachers had to the initial conflicts.*
3. *Additionally, findings were consistent with the findings in previous studies in the literature regarding the need to train and prepare teachers to prevent future conflicts in the scholar context.*
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INTRODUCTION

14. During the past decades, there has been a renewed interest in social interactions and conflicts among children (Rubin et al. 2006; Laursen et al. 2001).
15. Studies show that the school playground provides an important and unique context for analysing and learning about children's conflicts and disagreements
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KEYWORDS

elementary school
conflicts among peers
playground
reaction to conflict
assertiveness
teachers

