

Abstract of thesis entitled:

Perception of Danger and Anxiety in Children with Physical Maltreatment in Hong Kong

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#### Abstract

The study aims at investigating the effects of physical maltreatment on children's psychological well-being and general cognition. In the study, the selected indicator of psychological well-being was anxiety while perception of danger would be considered as the reflection of general cognition towards the world. Forty-two Hong Kong children, aged from 8 to 12, were interviewed. The effect of physical maltreatment on anxiety and perception of danger and the relationship among the three constructs were examined. The results suggest that children who have been treated with more aggression are more anxious. While anxiety and danger perception was found to be highly correlated, the relationship between danger perception and physical maltreatment remains unclear. It is posited that girls and boys may perceive physical aggression differently which contributes to the different patterns found between the

two. Implications of gender differences and attribution towards maltreatment

experiences as predictors of psychological well-being are discussed.