

Influence of the Social Environment on the Onset of Oppositional Defiant Disorder: A Case Study of a Grade 2 Learner

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ABSTRACT This study investigated the role of the social environment in the onset of Oppositional Defiant Disorder (ODD). A case study was conducted. Semi-structured interviews were conducted with three informants (maternal grandmother, aunt, class teacher) in conjunction with the perusal of educational progress reports. The child presented with symptoms that fit the criteria for ODD. Her oppositional defiance is attributable to environmental factors. Inconsistent parenting was a factor as Tino grew up with a presumably more tolerant maternal grandmother before moving to stay with her strict aunt and teacher where she started to behave in an inappropriate manner. The study recommends further study with a big sample to obtain generalisable findings.