A Study on the Effect of Using Intelligent Robots to Assist the Intergenerational Learning on Improving the Sensory Integration of Young Children and the Depression of the Elderly

Ming-Hsien Tsai*   Chun-Wen Lin**

The ageing of the population is a particular issue faced by the world today. From current studies, it reveals that an intergenerational learning could promote mutual understanding between the younger and the older generations. However, many conducted in Taiwan were carried out with community elders and students from elementary or junior high schools, with day care institutions or kindergartens rarely included. To improve this, this study investigated an intergenerational learning program involved with kindergarten children and elders from two institutions. With a help of intelligent robot-assisted teaching, this research, lasting for six weeks, created a communicative environment for the both under a single-group experiment with 30 elders from a day care center and 29 children from a kindergarten in Pingtung, Taiwan. It was intended to explore the impact of intergenerational learning intervention on the emotional state and cognitive function of the elderly, as well as the same on the sensory Integration function of the young children. The tools used included the geriatric depression scale, mini-mental state examination, and the child sensory integration function rating scale. The results showed that the program did improve the emotional depression of the elderly, but it seemed not improve the cognitive function yet. However, various sensory integration functions of young children observed were improved after the program.

Keywords: intergenerational learning, elderly, children, sensory integration function, geriatric depression

主題文章

* Ming-Hsien Tsai, Assistant Professor, Department of Child Care, National Pingtung University of Science and Technology

**Chun-Wen Lin, Professor, Department of Child Care, National Pingtung University of Science and Technology

Corresponding Author: Chun-Wen Lin, email: cwlin@mail.npust.edu.tw