

**Heskia Barad, I. & Roded A. D. (October, 2018), Secondary prevention of behavior problems in early childhood. Paper presented at *Developmental Psychology and Prevention: Paving the Way to Positive Development*, Tel Aviv, Israel.**

Abstract

This study evaluated the efficacy of a short-term intervention (named MASLOOL) for reducing behavior problems in preschoolers. MASLOOL targets significant adults to indirectly support children with behavior problems, by improving children's cooperation, adult-child interactions, and home-school communication (Somech & Elizur, 2012). Early-onset disruptive behaviors (aggressive behaviors, non-compliance, and emotional volatility) increase risk for negative outcomes later in life, including antisocial behavior and delinquency (Broidy et al., 2003; Longman et al., 2016). Intervening as early as possible is therefore essential. MASLOOL was based on previous early childhood short-term programs (Bierman et al., 2013; CPPRG, 2010a), with positive long-term outcomes. MASLOOL is grounded in an eco-systemic paradigm that focuses on how interactions between individuals and environments underlie psycho-social outcomes (Bronfenbrenner, 1977). In 27 preschools, behavior-analysts provided teacher-training and school-psychologists provided parent-support. Functional behavior analyses were used to identify environmental antecedents and consequences of problem behaviors, and to design classroom intervention (Hurl, et al., 2016). Observational and self-report data were collected pre- and post-intervention (3-4 months). Results indicate 85% reduction in refusal behaviors, 86% in verbal violence, and 85% in physical violence. MASLOOL was found to be an effective preventive intervention for reducing behavior problems of young children and promoting home-school collaboration.