**Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Class:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ( )**

**Tuesday English News Report**

*Tested to the limit: quarter of Hong Kong primary pupils so* ***anxious*** *they need professional help, study finds*

Broadcast Date: 24th November

*More than a quarter of primary school pupils show signs of anxiety. Photo: Edward Wong*

More than a quarter of the city's primary school children are showing **symptoms** of anxiety serious enough for them to need professional help, a new survey shows, with controlling parents and stressful studies the main **culprits**.

The results come amid **intense** debate over city-wide testing for primary school pupils which parents and educators say puts excessive pressure on children too young to cope.

Baptist Oi Kwan Social Service, the organisation that conducted the study of the mental health of local children, said the results were "worrying".

"We **urge** parents and teachers to care about the emotional health of the children as soon as possible," said Dr Chan Siu-mui, an assistant professor of psychological studies at the Hong Kong Institute of Education.

"Parents sometimes are too controlling over their children and treat them like babies, which has increased their levels of anxiety," she added. "They should spend more time listening to them and understanding their needs."

The survey, released yesterday, showed that 27.8 per cent of the children questioned displayed symptoms of anxiety sufficiently serious that the organisation said their parents should **seek** help from medical professionals.

While that figure was slightly lower than the 29.3 per cent recorded in an equivalent study last year, the organisation said the number of anxious children remained **alarmingly** high.

The children told researchers they were always worried that they were not performing well enough, were concerned about whether things would go smoothly and feared they were not doing as well as classmates.

Some even said they had trouble motivating themselves to go to school, suffered headaches or stomach aches while in class or were fearful when heading to school.

Academic results were the biggest source of stress for 22.7 per cent of children questioned, while 21.4 per cent said they feared **scolding** or other types of punishment from their parents.

The findings back up Hospital Authority figures showing that the number of children and teenagers seeking mental health services **surged** by 30 per cent last year to 26,000.

The study is likely to **stoke** concerns over the Territory-wide System Assessment for Primary Three pupils, which parents want **scrapped** due to the pressure it places on children. The Education Bureau said the tests would continue, but has set up a committee to review them.



1. What do you think?
2. Vocabulary

*Fill in the blanks in the sentences below using words from the box.*

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| anxious | symptoms | culprits | intense |
| urge | seek | alarmingly | scolding |
| surge(d) | stoke(d) | scrap(ped) |  |

1. The number of migrants going to Europe has \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ dramatically due to the terrible conflicts in the Middle East.
2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is a way of punishing someone by angrily telling them what they have done wrong.
3. I would \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (encourage) anyone to live and work abroad. It is an eye-opening experience.
4. He felt \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ when he realised he was going to miss his flight.
5. One of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of food poisoning is vomiting.
6. This means very strong. She had an \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ look in her eyes.
7. The number of people living under the poverty line is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ high in Hong Kong. Especially as it is such a wealthy city.
8. Many people believe the TSA exam should be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (Gotten rid of).
9. When we \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ a fire we make it burn brighter. You can also use this verb to make fears or worries worse.
10. If you have a fever, you should not come to school and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (look for) medical advice immediately.
11. He caused the fire. He is one of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

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