

## **Computer boy beats up mom (The Standard, 09/08/2011)**

By Samson Lee

A 14-year-old boy was yesterday arrested for beating up his mother after she scolded him for playing computer games in their MongKok home.

The teenager had apparently been on the computer for several hours at their flat in Winki House.

Around 1am, the mother, 42, told him to stop playing as long periods on the computer would affect his health.

He refused to listen and an argument broke out during which the teen pushed his mother to the ground and started punching her nose and head.

His father, alerted by his wife's screams, stopped the boy.

Neighbors also heard the screaming and called police. The woman was sent to KwongWah Hospital, accompanied by her daughter, while police arrested the teenager for assault occasioning actual bodily harm.

He was later released on bail and ordered to report to police next month. He has not been charged.

The mother was discharged from hospital after treatment.

Some neighbors said they were aware of the son's addiction to computer games but that the four-member family rarely argued.

Social worker Tan Kong-sau said it was obviously a case of domestic violence and that the relationship between mother and son may have been strained long before the incident.

Tan said it is important to find out what triggered the violence.

“We need to find out if this is the first time or whether he has done this before,” she said.

“The mother needs time to calm down and recover mentally. The violence may affect her

self-esteem."

Tan said since students are now on their summer holidays, they may spend more time on computer games.

She suggests parents discuss with their children about how much time they can spending playing.

``Sometimes, parents only tell their children not to do this or that without saying why. They should let their children know the reasons," she said.

In the past three years, three teenagers have jumped to their deaths after arguments with their parents because of playing computer games. Another three youngsters assaulted parents for the same reason.

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