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Overview of residential child care

Journal abstracts

Morphosyntactic development and educational style of parents in neglected children

Author: Moreno Manso, Juan Manuel; Garcia-Baamonde Sanchez, Ma Elena; Blazquez Alonso, Macarena.

Publication info: Children and Youth Services Review 34. 1 (2012): 311-315.

Abstract: This research analyses the morpho-syntactical competence of children in care and the educational style of their parents. The studies from the literature give no specific data concerning how the morphological and syntactic components are affected in children suffering from neglect. These studies point to important deficiencies in language development, but do not specify what such difficulties actually are. This research is carried out within the framework of the residential care children's homes in the region of Extremadura (Spain). The morpho-syntactic competence of the children and the parental educational style of a total of 74 children in residential care are analysed. The subjects are 41 males and 33 females, between 6 and 18 years of age. We apply the 'Objective Language Criteria Test' (BLOCScreening) to evaluate their linguistic development and the 'Autoevaluative Multifactorial Child Adaptation Test' (TAMAI) to determine educational style. The presence of difficulties in morphosyntax is evident. The children with a low dominion of morphology and syntax perceive a more punitive style in the parents. The difficulties in morphosyntax are manifested both expressive and receptive. Use short sentences to frequent omission of morphological markers. Comprehension problems are lower than those of expression, but it shows a erroneous understanding of some grammatical structures, and grammatical errors in spontaneous speech. Use fewer morphologically complex words in their narratives. Have difficulty in organising the content of the speech and the use of cohesive devices (using the precision and accuracy of the conjunctions used in compound sentences). We must stress the need to carry out early prevention and intervention programmes in order to promote an increase in both the quantity and the quality of language stimulation. From there, the need to set up intervention programmes that influence the linguistic competence of children who have suffered abuse. [Copyright Elsevier B.V.]

Leaving family care

Author: del Valle, Jorge F; Lazaro-Visa, Susana; Lopez, Monica; Bravo, Amaia.

Publication info: Children and Youth Services Review 33. 12 (Dec 2011): 2475-2481.

Abstract: Kinship care represents 46% of all out-of-home care placements in Spain and 80% of all foster care placements. Therefore, the role of fostering relatives, most of whom (about 70%) are grandparents, is particularly relevant in the Spanish child care system. In 1998 we carried out a descriptive study on profiles of kinship care in Spain, including children, birth parents, fostering relatives and patterns of process and intervention, with a sample of 568 cases. This paper presents a follow-up study of a part of this group who were adults in 2006, aimed at assessing their transition to adulthood. A subset of 143 young adults was eligible for this follow-up study, which consists of a personal interview and questionnaires. We were able to assess a sample of 67 young adults in this way, and collect some relevant information on another 56 cases. The results show that only a small part of the sample present serious problems of social exclusion (9%), whilst 70% have found employment or are in higher education and with a relatively stable life, even though, in general, their jobs are of a low-skilled nature. We also discuss other important aspects, such as the frequent loss (through death) of grandparent foster carers and the lack of help and support from the authorities for their kinship carers perceived by the young people themselves.

Needs Analysis for a Parental Guidance Program for Biological Family: Spain's Current Situation

Author: Balsells, Angels; Amoros, Pere; Fuentes-Pelaez, Nuria; Mateos, Ainoa.

Publication info: Revista de cercetare si interventie sociala 34 (Sep 2011): 21-37.

Abstract: One of the current characteristics of child protection in Spain is the priority that we try to give to the socio-educative action with the biological family when the measure of kinship foster care is applied to achieve family reunification. In this paper the results related to the biological family, the risk and protection factors and its needs of socio-educative support are presented. They are the result of two consecutive studies carried out by the GRISIJ6 in which the educative needs with regard to Kinship foster care are analysed. The research compiles the information of 145 professionals of child protection in the Spanish territory distributed in 20 discussion groups. The qualitative results have been analysed by means of the content analysis technique. The results show the factors that can be favourable in a process of reunification of the child and of support. To highlight: a) the quality and frequency of visits and meetings; b) the quality of the relationship between the foster family and the biological family; c) the relationship between the biological family and the fostered child -- affective bonds; d) the reunification factors -- involvement in the parental role and in motivation; e) the socio-educative support and the official and non-official resources; and f) the biological families' guidance needs. Adapted from the source document.

Kinship foster care: Protection or risk?

Author: Palacios, Jesus; Jimenez, Jesus M.

Publication info: *Adoption & Fostering* 33. 3 (Oct 2009): 64-75.

Abstract: The data reported in this article by Jesus Palacios and Jesus M Jimenez come from a study of foster care in Andalusia, southern Spain. In Andalusia, as in the rest of Spain, kinship care is far more frequent than non-relative foster care. The authors explore the differences between these two types of foster care arrangement in a number of areas: socio-demographic profiles; children's stimulation and patterns of rearing; stress, informal support and needs; formal support and relationships with child protection services; evaluation of the experiences of carers; contact between birth parents and children; and foster children's development and behavioural difficulties. Although, compared with non-relative care, there are some clear advantages to kinship foster care (eg placement at an early age and fewer transitions), there are also a number of risk factors in all areas studied that must be considered to avoid what should be a protective placement becoming a risk situation for both carers and children. Adapted from the source document.

Social adaptation and communicative competence in children in care

Author: Manso, Juan Manuel Moreno; Alonso, Ma Elena Garcia-Baamonde Sanchez y Macarena Blazquez.

Publication info: *Children and Youth Services Review* 31. 6 (Jun 2009): 642-648.

Abstract: This paper analyses the communicative competence and the degree of social adaptation of children in care. It provides further knowledge of the relationship between the children's social and linguistic skill and analyses the presence of difficulties in the different components of language (morphology, syntaxis, semantics and pragmatics). The research was carried out in children's homes in Extremadura (Spain). The sample consists of 74 children between 6 and 18 years of age. The study illustrates that the children's linguistic development is below what is considered to be normal for their chronological age. They have greater difficulties in pragmatics and morphology than in syntaxis and semantics. The relationship between the level of dominion in morphology, syntaxis and semantics and the children's degree of social maladjustment is evident. We call attention to such important aspects as intentionality in communication and the context in which the children's language is developed. [Copyright Elsevier B.V.]

Adult self-sufficiency and social adjustment in care leavers from children's homes: a long-term assessment

Author: del Valle, Jorge F; Bravo, Amaia; Alvarez, Elvira; Fernanz, Ana.

Publication info: *Child and Family Social Work* 13. 1 (Feb 2008): 12-22.

Abstract: This paper presents a study carried out in Spain that followed up 260 young people, the majority of them adults, who had been in residential care for significant periods. The follow-up takes place between 1 and 9 years after participants had left residential care, and assesses their level of social and work integration, as well as considering the incidence of problems related to marginalization and social exclusion. Furthermore, it analyses the reasons for the child being taken into care, the socio-family context, length of stay, changes in placement and other features or incidents in relation to the residential care. The data show that close to 15% have serious problems (drug dependence, delinquency, etc.), 25% receive help from the social services and the rest manage independently to a greater or lesser extent. We discuss the significance of these data, especially the relationship between the final result and the initial and process variables. Accepted for publication: June 2007Published online: July 2007. Adapted from the source document.

Adolescents in Foster Care with Their Grandparents: Parenting Styles and Family Relationships

Author: Fuentes, M J; Bernedo, I M; Fernandez-Molina, M.

Publication info: *Journal of Intergenerational Relationships* 5. 4 (2007): 41-58.

Abstract: The aim of this research was to analyse the relationships between foster grandparents and their adolescent grandchildren. The sample consisted of 54 grandparents from Malaga (Spain), with a mean age of 65.9 for grandfathers and 63.6 for grandmothers, who foster 70 adolescents, 31 boys and 39 girls, with ages ranging between 11 and 17. The majority of the grandfathers were retired, while the grandmothers worked at home. The grandparents presented a low level of education and scant economic resources. The results indicated that the relationship between the grandparents and grandchildren was mainly perceived as good or very good. The grandparents perceived that grandchildren maintained a better relationship with their grandmothers, whom they trusted more and to whom they disclosed more, than with their grandfathers. The grandparents recognised that their relationship with their grandchildren was perceived more as parent-child than grandparent-grandchild. The grandparents were more affectionate and communicative with their grandchildren than critical or rejecting. They also used more inductive styles than rigid or indulgent forms when applying rules. Adapted from the source document. COPIES ARE AVAILABLE FROM: HAWORTH DOCUMENT DELIVERY CENTER, The Haworth Press, Inc., 10 Alice Street, Binghamton, NY 13904-1580

Recent Changes in Adoption and Fostering in Spain

Author: Palacios, Jesus; Amoros, Pere.

Publication info: The British Journal of Social Work 36. 6 (Sep 2006): 921-935.

Abstract: As in many other countries, adoption & foster-care have seen important changes in Spain. Adoption of healthy Spanish babies has now become the exception, while special needs & inter-country adoptions have become much more common. Foster-care, in its turn, has also changed, & now there are new types of fostering arrangements & new professional practices substituting old ones. This article presents a summary of the main changes that occurred in recent years in the context of adoption & foster-care in Spain. Tables, Figures, References. Adapted from the source document.

Evaluation of a Treatment Program for Abusive and High-Risk Families in Spain

Author: Paul, Joaquin de; Arruabarrena, Ignacia.

Publication info: Child Welfare 82. 4 (Jul 2003): 413-442.

Abstract: This article describes a six-year evaluation of a comprehensive treatment program for abusive families in Spain. The evaluation involved practitioners' clinical judgments, standardized measures, & follow-up data about children's living situations. The results were similar to those obtained by similar programs from the US & other developed countries. The analysis obtained the lowest rates of success for neglectful & abusive-neglectful families. Dropout & nondropout families differed in two paternal characteristics: alcohol problems & childhood experience of out-of-home care. Rehabilitated & non-rehabilitated families differed in several variables, including time elapsed between case detection & referral to the treatment program. Scores on measures showed significant changes during treatment. 5 Tables, 68 References. Adapted from the source document.

Child Residential Care in the Spanish Social Protection System

Author: Fernandez del Valle, Jorge; Casas, Ferran.

Publication info: International Journal of Child & Family Welfare 5. 3 (Sep 2002): 112-128.

Abstract: This paper provides an overview of child residential care in the Spanish social protection system. The authors describe the changing paradigms that the child welfare system in their country had to deal with (specialization, normalization, & children's rights) & present recent innovations regarding referral, planning & evaluation of interventions, & training of professionals. Attention is given to the interdisciplinary teams (EAIAs), which play a central role in the social protection system in Catalonia. Finally, challenges for the future of child residential care in Spain are summarized. 3 Tables, 3 Figures, 34 References. Adapted from the source document.

Specialist Fostering in Spain

Author: Amoros, Pere; Freixa, Montse; Fuentes, Nuria; Cruz Molina, Mari.

Publication info: Adoption & Fostering 25. 2 (Jul 2001): 6-17.

Abstract: Specialist fostering is among several new forms of foster care being introduced in Spain. It recently provided the focus of an evaluative research study carried out by the autonomous administration in Catalonia & the U of Barcelona. Provided here is a summary of the principal advances in foster care, as well as an analysis of the problems encountered, & outline proposals for the improvement of the specialist service. 3 Tables, 19 References. Adapted from the source document.

Perceptions of stigma and user involvement in child welfare services

Author: Scholte, E M; Colton, M; Casas, F; Drakeford, M; Roberts, S; et al.

Publication info: British Journal of Social Work 29. 3 (Jun 1999): 373-391.

Abstract: Explored the perceptions of social disqualification of 'stigma' that service users attributed to public child welfare services in random samples of service users taken from the Netherlands, Catalonia (Spain) and Wales (UK). In all 3 samples, foster and residential care invoked the greatest sense of stigma, while the health related and the preventive family services were perceived as the least stigmatizing types of public welfare services. Comparative analysis also revealed that a positive attitude towards the use of public welfare services, a perception of supportive or non-stigmatizing social norms regarding the use of such services, and of public welfare services as helpful correlated in all 3 samples with higher levels of user satisfaction and involvement. (Original abstract - amended)

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