
Parental cooperation with parents with intellectual disabilities

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Parent educator, special education director

Special education director

- All schools in Iceland have inclusion education policy
- Responsible for organizing, implementation and assessment of all special education in the school
- Positive learning environment for all students
- Give advice to and support teachers
- Positive parental cooperation / Home and school collaboration
- Most important to have trusting relationship with parents



Parents with disabilities

- Intellectual / developmental disabilities
- Not a lot of research on working with parents with disabilities as teachers
- The children often have disabilities themselves, learning difficulties or behavioral problems
- Some schools / neighbourhoods have higher percentage of parents with disabilities
- System collaboration
 - Appropriate support from early pregnancy



Helga & Anna

- Mother and daughter who both have intellectual disabilities
- Team meeting at the preschool
 - psychologist, physical therapist, speech therapist, occupational therapist, doctors, social workers
 - Just small meetings after that
 - Always someone with the mother
- Individual curriculum
- Collaboration with childcare and social services
- Regular parent evaluation
- Parent education / training
 - Age appropriate parental monitoring



Helga & Anna

- 40-60% of children are removed from parents with intellectual disabilities and often without any evidence of neglect, abuse etc.
 - Not intentional neglect with disabled parents
 - Many people feel threatened or scared and don't want to cooperate with professionals.
- Priority to earn Helga's trust and help her keep Anna and she was always involved in decisions.



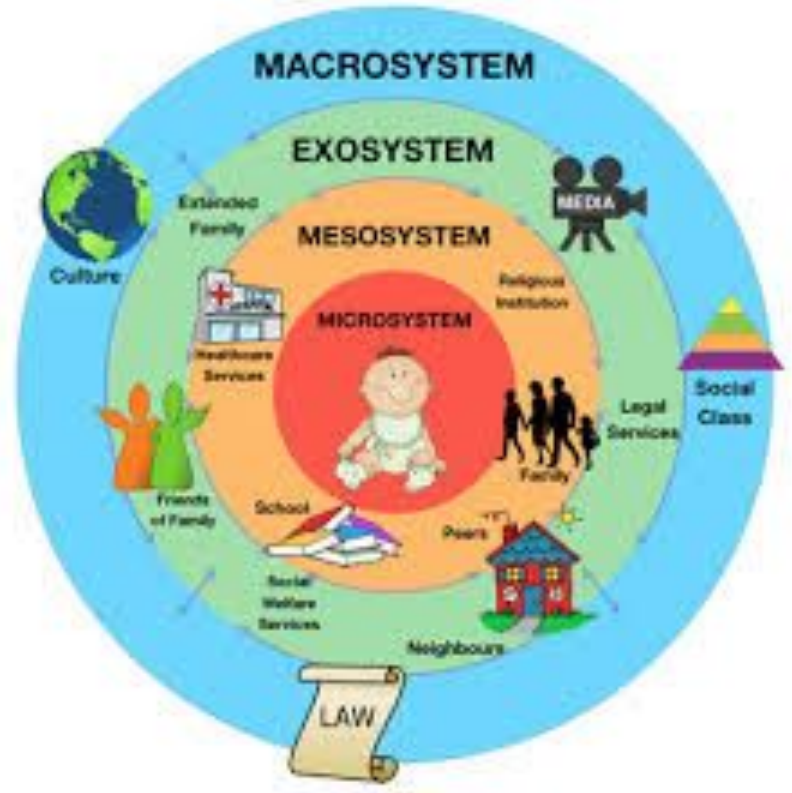
Helga & Anna

- Important to secure a safe and supportive home environment
- Support family
 - 2-4 days a month
- Home visits
 - Few times per week to everyday
 - Help with bathing, cleaning, making dinner, visual schedules etc.
- Weekly meetings
 - Go over our emphasis and individual learning goals from Anna's speech therapist, occupational therapist and physical therapist
 - Very short, easy and clear information and everything written down



It takes a village!

- Parental disability does impact
 - the child's environment
 - parental & household resources
 - social & economic status
 - home & family environment



Thank you!

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