

CHILDREN WITH MEDICAL AND EDUCATIONAL NEEDS IN ARMENIA: BUILDING UP AN INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM

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Abstract: Please type in Times New Roman 11 point font

Background: The interdisciplinary approach in child care is essential. However, the collaboration between different institutions/professions is not always well-established. Such interdisciplinary collaboration benefits especially children with special medical and/or educational needs.

Legal basis: In Armenia integration in education started in 1999 based on the Law on Education. Inclusion began in 2005 with the bottom up approach - from school. In the system there were lacks that had to be filled in. In 2007 the Medical-Psychological-Pedagogical (MPP) Assessment Center was established based on a special school order by the Ministry of Education and Science. The Center assesses the educational needs of the children so they get the necessary support at school.

Situation: The children hospitalized and on hemodialysis at the MC "Arabkir" need primarily medical care and continuous education. The DAA hospital school provides education to the children on treatment. Many patients need help after discharge from the hospital to become reintegrated into their home school. The DAA Special Educators' Club provides knowledge and experience exchange.

Procedures: The parents of patients of pre-school and school age often need help in finding schools that will serve their needs. The DAA staff in cooperation with the MMP Assessment Center provides information on special and integration schools. On the parent's request the child's educational needs can be assessed at the Assessment Center to ensure that his/her educational needs are met at school, as soon as the schooling starts.

Illustration: On an example of a child having nephrological problems and educational needs we will show how the presented collaboration model works in Armenia between state and NGO institutions as well as the medical and educational settings.

Conclusions: Having the need for interdisciplinary approach the professional core groups have been built and become active. In this context the professional exchange at EWOPA meetings is of great help.

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