What do children need in case of international child abducation by a parent?

MAIN RESULTS OF THE INCLUDE COUNTRY REPORT, HUNGARY



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AIM OF THE RESEARCH



GAIN A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF CHILDREN'S POSITION AND NEEDS

FOCUS ON ISSUES THAT ARE CENTRAL TO THEIR WELL-BEING IN CASE OF ICA.



IN CASES OF ICA, CHILDREN

UNEXPECTED
/ARE INFORMED
ABOUT
SIGNIFICANT
DECISIONS

HAVE NO SAY IN SOMETHING

GET SEPARATED FROM THE PARENT

NEED TO ACCOMMODATE

FEEL BETRAYED, TRUST IS DAMAGED DO NOT
UNDERSTAND
WHAT IS
HAPPENING,
REMAIN ALONE
WITH QUESTIONS

HESITATE ABOUT SPEAKING UP

FACE
VULNERABLE
SITUATIONS
WHERE
CHILDREN'S
FUTURE DEPENDS
ON OTHERS



HOW DID WE WORK WITH CHILDREN?

DRAMA SESSION

10-13 year olds

10 persons

consultation level

addressed ICA indirectly

3 sessions

PEER RESEARCHERS (CHILD RIGHTS AMBASSADORS)

14-17 year olds

3 persons

collaboration level

addressed ICA directly

10 sessions



DATA

DRAMA

PERFORMANCE

still image

group impro

individual impro

forum theatre

REFLECTION

mental map

hot seat

mantle of the expert

rainbow of desires

AMBASSADORS' VIEWS

INTERPRETATION

observations

link to the underlying themes

OWN VIEWS

additional thoughts

specific suggestions



What have we learnt?



SOMETHING UNEXPECTED HAPPENS /BEING INFORMED ABOUT SIGNIFICANT DECISIONS



Children wants to learn about the:

background of decisions their role in the decision minor details too



How? Consider:

Circumstances
Timing
Admitting a mistake



HAVING NO SAY IN SOMETHING



Causes frustration, powerlessness



Belief in ability to alter or influence decisions



Show examples where children can exert control over their life



GETTING SEPARATED FROM THE PARENT



Causes insecurity, worry



Changes the family structure and dynamics



Physical distance is not necessarily emotional



distance



Frequency and quality of communication matters



Parent's stability and behaviour is key



NEED TO ACCOMMODATE



Moving as a burden, something that should be compensated



Need some level of continuity



Family ties and peer relationships

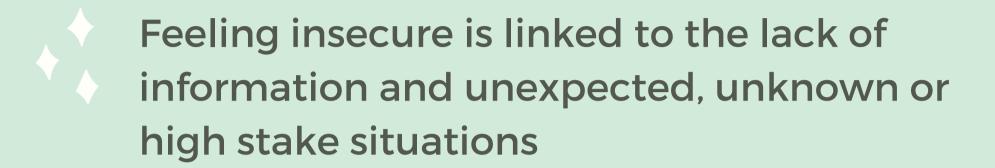


FEELING BETRAYED, TRUST IS DAMAGED

- Bad feelings and damage of trust areinevitable but they can be healed
- Good intentions of parents' are trusted
- Honesty is key
- Parents should make the first steps and approach children
- General distrust towards official bodies and judges



NOT UNDERSTANDING WHAT IS HAPPENING, REMAINING ALONE WITH QUESTIONS



- Need for predictability
- Need for clear and understandable information about everyday and formal situations
- Adult's genuine attention can help them cope with uncertainty.



HESITANCE ABOUT SPEAKING UP

- Children worry about the consequences ofspeaking up
- More problematic in relation to authoritiesthan to parents
- Impeded by the general distrust towards official bodies
- Earlier bad experiences influence children's attitude
- Words are not enough to feel safe
- Consider involving a third, independent professional



VULNERABLE SITUATIONS



Children as a supporting actor in this story



Parents are key in feeling less vulnerable



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LEGAL PROFESSIONALS

- Be careful not to deepen the conflict between parents and children
- Provide information about the process, our rights and the consequences
- Be reliable and predictable
- Respect children's feelings
- Listen to us carefully
- Do not expect us to like everything or trust everybody at once
- Be patient, give us time



Where do these results lead us?

SPACE

VOICE

right to express their views

right to take their views into consideration

AUDIENCE

INFLUENCE

CHILD PARTICIPATION SHOULD BE SUPPORTED AT ALL LEVELS



FURTHER CONCLUSIONS

- Emphasis should be made on the underlying themes of ICA
- Sharing information and discussing the situation with children should be fundamental
- Children's behaviour with authority figures is shaped by earlier experiences but they can be overcome
- Professionals are seen differently
- Primary prevention should be also supported
- Children want parents to control the situation and take responsibility
- Details matter



THANK YOU!



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