

Activity of school professionals in child protection in France

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Problematic

- By age of 4, 100 % of children attend school representing a total of 12 millions students
- A significant number of these children are victims of maltreatment
- School is the institution that makes the highest number of child abuse report
- The activity of school professionals in the field of child protection is poorly studied

Objectives

Identify the professional practices of school agents regarding the screening and the follow-up of child abuse situations

Methodology

- Monographic research
- Professionals of 4 schools with children for 6 to 11 in 2 counties
- 14 focus group, 37 individual interviews (teachers, nurses, doctors, social workers, directors and services managers)

Results

- All participants agree that school has an important rôle
- Their approach depends on their professional identity and initial training
- The consequence is a lack of knowledge of the specific role of each making complex collaboration
- Difficulties to do difference between children victims of abuse and children with social difficulties such living poverty or migrating
- Teachers especially expresses professional isolation and difficulties in managing their emotions
- Participants need more support and feedback from their superiors and from child protection services in particular in dealing with families

Perspectives

- Intra and extramural multidisciplinary and cross disciplinary team training allowing a better knowledge of each professional and their mission
- Better dissemination of procedures and protocols
- work organization providing support to professionals, recognizing the difficulties of child protection work and allowing real teamwork