

THESIS TITLE

Dealing with a child's illness through family system

ABSTRACT

The aim of the Master's thesis *Dealing with a child's illness through family system* is to create a work focusing on the subjective perception of the difficulties of managing a child's illness in a family. The thesis is of theoretical and empirical nature. The theoretical part describes theoretical solutions, opinions of individuals and research conducted regarding the matter of ill children, the psychology of illness, family and the family system. The empirical part consists of qualitative research focused on the family's subjective experience of the situation. The data was collected using the methodology of in-depth semi-structured interviews decoded utilizing open code. The data was analyzed using principles of multiple casestudies and inspired by phenomenological research design. The research output is casuistry describing concrete ways and possibilities of how the family can cope with the difficult situation. The goal of a casuistry is to shed some light onto the issue of having a ill child in the family in order to better understand the situation and empathy needed from the family network and professionals involved. One of the main findings of the thesis is that a mother plays a key role in the process of managing an illness. She provides care, takes over responsibility for the child's illness and utilizes all available means to improve the family's and sick child's condition. Furthermore, it was discovered that the family needs space and time immediately post-diagnosis allowing them to at least partially process the new information.

KEYWORDS

Family psychology, family system, family system theory, dealing with illness, ill child