

# **MENTAL REPRESENTATION OF PARENTS OF CHILDREN IN INSTITUTIONAL CARE**

Abstract of dissertation

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Most children in institutional care have their families and are in contact with them, but for various reasons these children grow up in a family can not. We know from scientific works, that there is usually a cold atmosphere, weak interest in children, or violence in these families. But children placed in institutional care positive express of parents, practice show and it is known, that children, who do not live with their parents, idealize them. Children selected in the study were in development of the older school age, which is characterized among other critical look at adults.

The work is based on the above-mentioned ambivalence and focuses on the mental representation of parents of older school children placed in institutional care. The theme is monitored by using several methods (questionnaire, drawing, interview, determining polarities). The obtained data were quantitative - qualitative processed and compared with similar data obtained in a group of children growing up in a family.

It was found that ideas of parents of older school age children living in institutional care are different from ideas of the same old children growing up in the family. Children in institutional care show parents more extremely, and their ideas are idealized. An important finding is that the group of children in institutional care does not share the theme of family. These children speak about their family with peers just little and the conversation with adults on the subject is specific too. After returning the child to the family environment, the child is confronted with the reality of family. This could be very burdensome and cause of the other social failure. Recommendations for practice are in different ways of prevention and intervention.