"Discovering who I am- Exploring the Optimal Conditions for Positive Identity Formation in Residential Child Care


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Discovering Who I am- Exploring the Optimal Conditions for Identity Formation in Residential Child Care

Gerry Marshall- Queen’s University Belfast
EUSARF Conference- Porto
3 October 2018
An initial thought

You drained me of my identity and injected self doubt into my veins
Left me questioning my own sanity
Walking around aimlessly
At war with my own body every day
Trying to scrub your heavy words off my skin
My mental state has been shaken to its core
I don't know who I am anymore

e.s.
Identity formation

• My PhD research - children’s homes and quality care with reference to identity formation


• Identity formation is an inter-subjective process - relationships with other people are critical to how I see myself and how I value myself

• Primary psychological task of adolescence


• One notable exception (Levy, 1993).
HONNETH - RECOGNITION THEORY

Identity Formation

Experience of love/care
Self Confidence

Experience of human rights
Self -Respect

Experience of participation and belonging
Self -Esteem

1 core theme: systemic congruence in the service of the best interests of children

3 psycho-social processes:
- Pain based – behaviour
- Extra familial living environment
- Sense of normality

11 interactional dynamics as a means by which to evaluate the quality of care
ANGLIN/HONNETH MAPPING EXERCISE (1)

Anglin
Struggle for congruence

Incongruence (in care provision)

Misrecognition (of self-worth)

Honneth
Struggle for recognition

Inhibited identity formation

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>11 interactional dynamics</th>
<th>Anglin</th>
<th>Honneth Recognition through love, care and stability</th>
<th>Honneth Recognition through rights and justice and legal/social/moral entitlements</th>
<th>Honneth Recognition through participation and belonging in the community</th>
<th>Houston Recognition through personal empowerment &amp; transformation</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Listening and responding with respect</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td></td>
<td>Self -confidence</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Communicating a framework for understanding</td>
<td>yes</td>
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<td>yes</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Building rapport and relationship</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Establishing structure routine and expectations</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>yes</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Inspiring commitment</td>
<td></td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Staff attributes (values, principles, ethics/attitudes/beliefs, knowledge, skills, training)</td>
<td>Therapeutic Milieu (life-space &amp; culture of care in home)</td>
<td>Physical environment</td>
<td>Rights, Justice, legal entitlements &amp; citizenship</td>
<td>Care/love/stability (quality of relationships with staff/family/friends)</td>
<td>Systemic congruence</td>
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<tr>
<td>Extra familial living environment</td>
<td>Listening and responding with respect</td>
<td>Providing resources</td>
<td>Sense of normality</td>
<td>Establishing structure, routine and expectations</td>
<td>Providing resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Listening and responding with respect</td>
<td>Emotional &amp; developmental Support</td>
<td>Extra familial living environment</td>
<td>Challenging thinking and action</td>
<td>Emotional &amp; developmental Support</td>
<td>Establishing structure, routine and expectations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sharing power and decision making</td>
<td>Respecting personal space and time</td>
<td>Sense of normality</td>
<td>Sharing power and decision making</td>
<td>Respecting personal space and time</td>
<td>Extra familial living environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Core philosophy of the person</td>
<td>Pain based behaviour</td>
<td>Extra familial living environment</td>
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<td>Extra familial living environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relationship building and sustaining skills</td>
<td>Building rapport &amp; relationship</td>
<td>Challenging thinking and action</td>
<td>Power in institutions-adult centered care</td>
<td>Challenging thinking and action</td>
<td>Extra familial living environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level of personal commitment</td>
<td>Authenticity</td>
<td>Extra familial living environment</td>
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REFERENCES


