

Paper Session – Foster Care in Denmark



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From SL's network management.

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A Portrait of Foster Care Placements

Program:

- Foster Care in Denmark
- What is a foster family?
- Care procedure – Before and during care
- The Art of Unifying Family and Work Lives
- Examples of dilemmas
- Questions

Facts about Foster Care in DK

Children in placements (2006)

- 14,156
- 6,045 in foster care

About 45% in foster care

Foster care is the most common and inexpensive form of placement.

Foster Care and the Future

- Foster care is a tradition
- Foster care is affordable
- Foster care is most effective when children are placed in care at an early age.
- Foster care research is still needed
- Foster care still lacks recognition as a job with security for the employees

What is a Foster Family?

- 80% have more than five years of experience as foster carers.
- 70% have experience from more than one foster child.
- 40% of all foster carers state that their educational background is a Bachelor's degree in Social Education.
- 22% state that they have not completed any form of higher education.

What is a Foster Family?

- An environment for development
- Intimacy
- Continuity
- Reliability
- stability

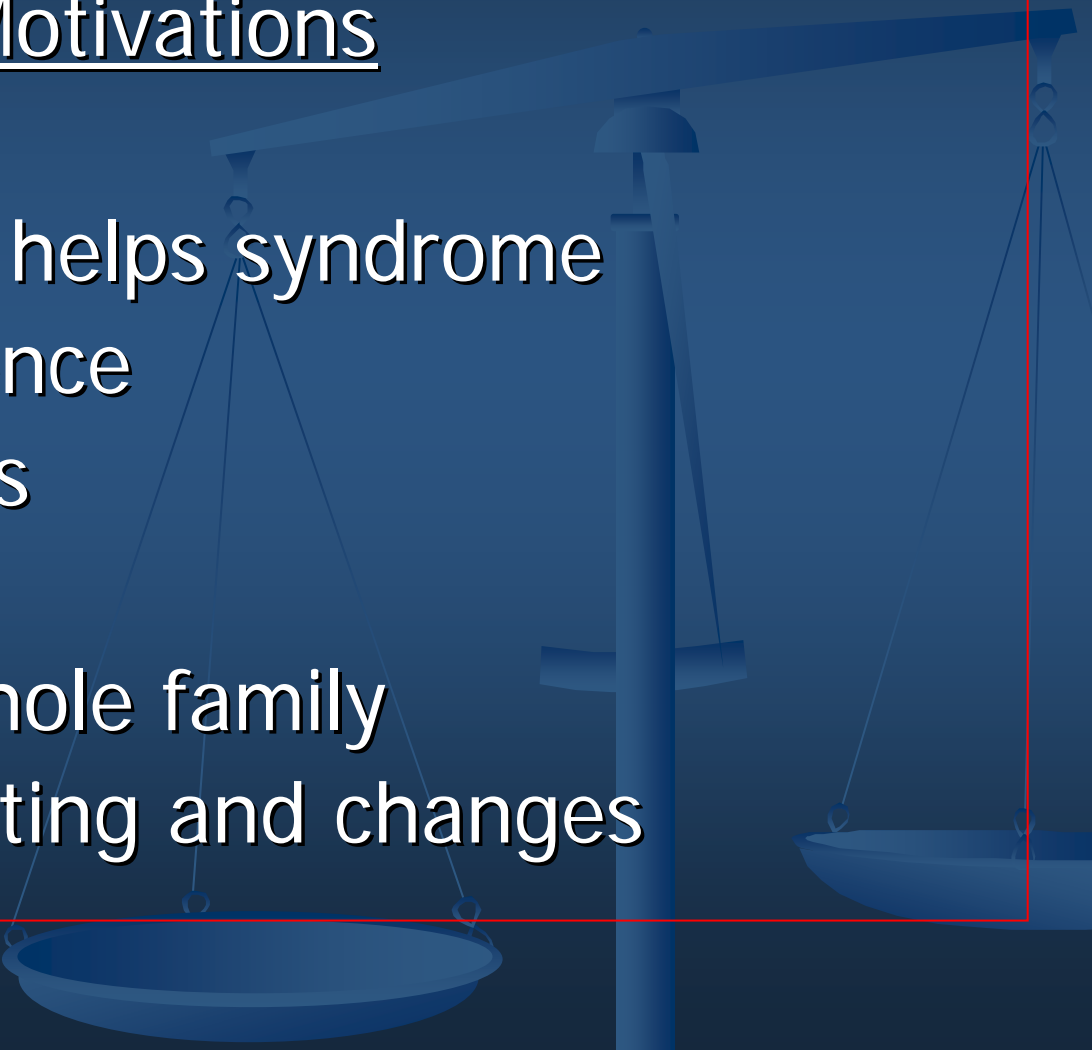
What is a Foster family

The everyday life in a foster care home

- Structures and repetition
- Accepting being a "public family"
- Cooperation
- The unknown Agenda
- Own children

What is a Foster family?

Motivations

- Idealism
 - Over developed helps syndrome
 - Making a difference
 - Having surpluses
 - Lifestyle
 - Involving the whole family
 - Beliving in investing and changes
- 

Care Procedure – Before and During Care

Foster carers must possess 5 competencies:

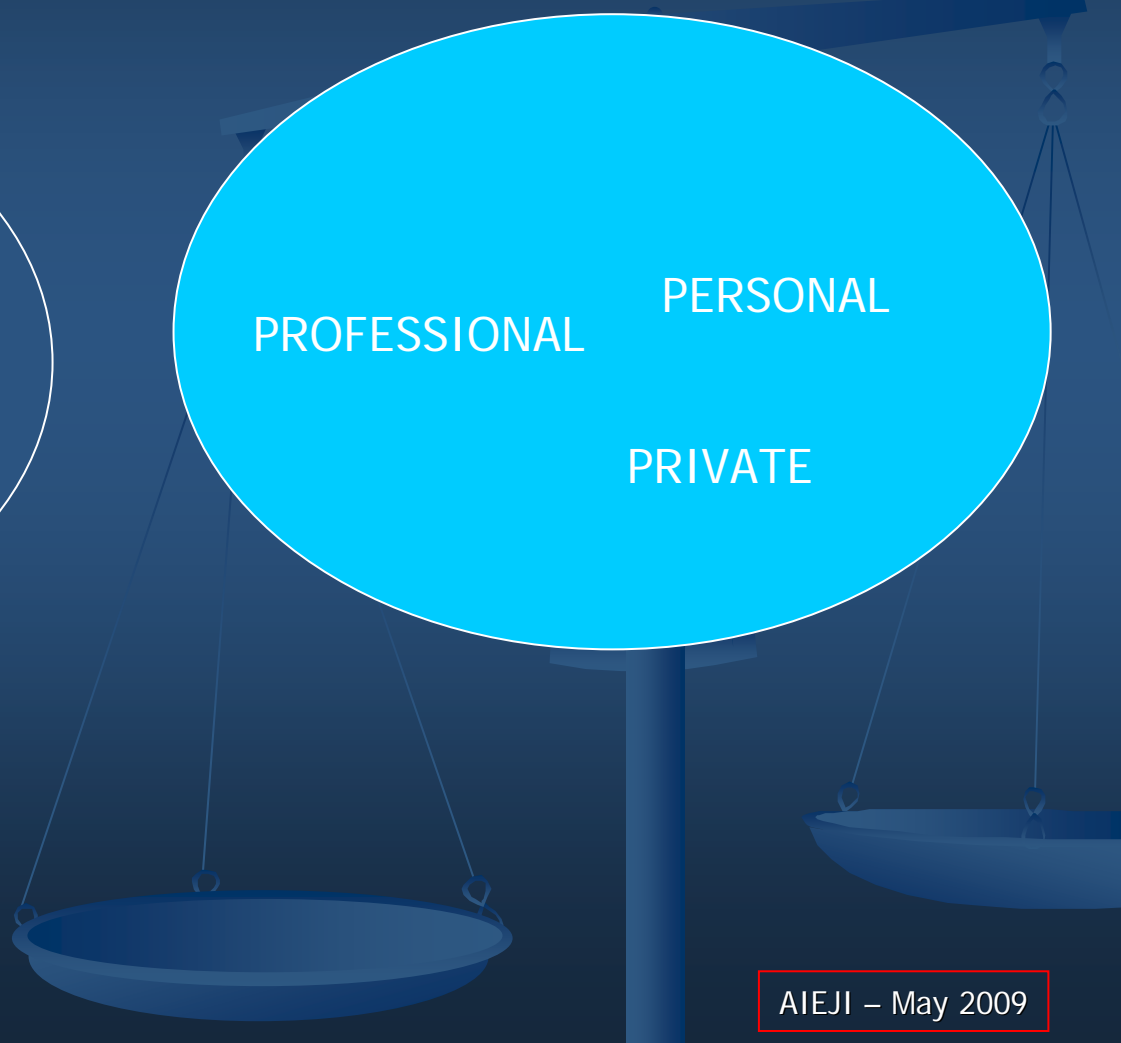
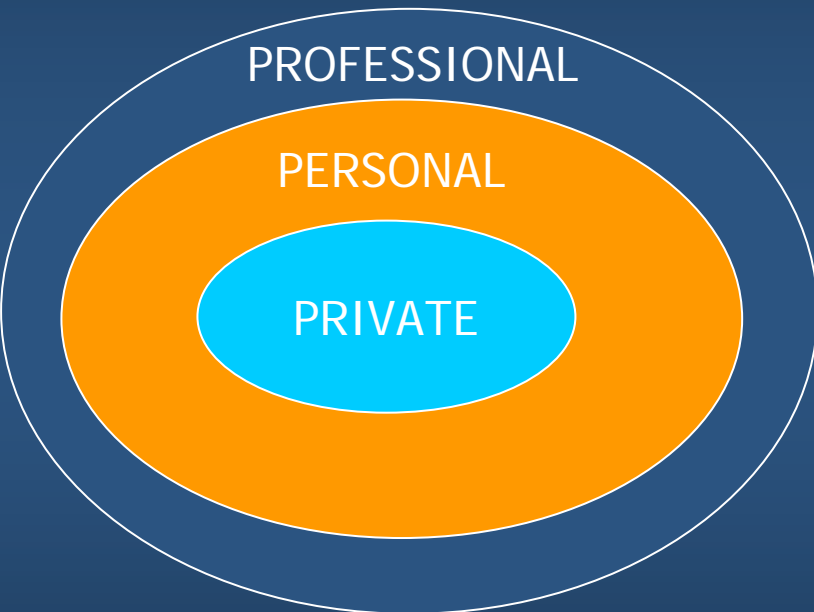
- 1. The ability to bring up and provide care for a child
- 2. The ability to establish a connection to a child based on intimacy, affection, continuity and respect for the child's joint decision-making
- 3. The ability to respect and support relations between the child and his/her family
- 4. The ability to pledge to a lifelong commitment
- 5. The ability to be an active participant in a professional team

Foster Carers' Balancing Act

- ***Professional distance vs. personal involvement***
- ***Paid work vs. calling***
- ***Reason vs. emotions***
- ***Trust vs. distance***
- ***Authentic vs. modified***
- ***Professional (knowledge, theory and practice)***
- ***Support vs. control***
- ***Family vs. institutional***

The Art of Unifying Family and Work Lives

The working zones



Foster Care Family as a Developmental Space for the Child in Care - a pedagogical practice in a grey area



Thank you!