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Social support to parenting in difficult settings: a contact centre for drug-addicted parents and their young children

The relationship of drug-addicted parents with their youngsters has raised much concern in Northern countries. In Switzerland this issue has been addressed very recently.

The aim of this paper is to recall the creation of an innovative service set up to support the relationship with drug-addicted mothers and fathers living with their young children. "Trait d'union" is a contact centre along the same line as contact centres created in France by Françoise Dolto.

Parents are invited to spend some hours a day on a volunteer base with their children in a friendly environment. Specialized professionals help them to build or restore the relationship with their youngsters by helping them to take care of basic daily needs such as, preparing food, caring for their health, playing with them, developing their language skills, understanding their emotions, encouraging their mobility.

The question addressed in this paper is to analyse and discuss the response offered by this innovative contact centre to problems of attachment in the parent child relationship in difficult settings such as drug addiction.

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