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<p>Tiivistelmä-Referat-Abstract</p> <p>The purpose of this study is to describe and evaluate the work of early intervention and family support in Family Centres of Helsinki City Social Services Department. The subject matter in this study is approached by using community social work perspective. The research data consists of descriptions of early intervention and family support working models. Descriptions have been gathered from the workers of play parks, social and family work, families with children home service, family houses and groups and projects in two phases: first by a questionnaire and thereafter worker joint development process. This study is a part of the development process of early intervention and family support in Family Centres. The data was analysed by applying theory engaged examination and content analysis. Evaluation method is description and the purpose is to create an overview the work of early intervention and family support and its development needs. The approach to research is development evaluation.</p> <p>The workers described in the questionnaire 393 different working models. Based on analysis working methods of direct client work were defined as follows: family work, group work, community work, multicultural work and information about the services. Working methods of indirect client work were defined as multiprofessional network and strengthening of the working methods of early intervention and family support. Based on the questionnaire workers saw supporting parenthood and strengthening of social networks needs for the work. Experienced results of the working methods were positive and their achievements were experienced in family and group work. Based on workers experience working methods close to basic work were considered to be effective. Workers evaluate that the working methods brought a change to client's life situation (medium 8,31 on scale 1-10).</p> <p>The descriptions prepared in the development process examine early intervention and family support in three levels: community, department and worker/working place. Local co-operation and group work were described by all functions. This study investigates also the descriptions of the workers from play parks from the community and community social work perspective. Parks are described as spaces of community, where participation and empowerment is made possible. The work of early intervention and family support is not a uniform collection of working methods which would be similar to all functions. All functions do it by taking into account the basic work and its specific features.</p> <p>Based on the analysis of descriptions I suggest looking at the early intervention and family support from developmental, social and operational point of view. Operational viewpoint is intervention and support on individual and community level. Through these elements both universal and selective needs of children and their families is visible in early intervention and family support. The changes in working environment have an impact on the development of the work. In this study four development strategies have been created from community social work basis. In these strategies the aim, elements and methods of work have been combined. Strategies are proactive and preventive work, services close to community, work centred on the social network and shared responsibility of practitioners and citizens.</p>			
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