



BEATA IWANICKA, ALEKSANDRA ROŻEK

Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań

---

**Report from scientific symposium  
„Current tendencies in the support of the development  
of children and their families”, Faculty of Educational  
Studies of the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań,  
18 May, 2017**

On 18 May 2017, at the Faculty of Educational Studies of the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, Poland, the scientific symposium took place entitled „Current tendencies in the support of the development of children and their families”, organised by the Institute of Child Psychopathology. The purpose of this event was the exchange of experiences spanning specialised work towards the support of the development of children and their families.

The symposium was enriched by the presence of prof. dr hab. Edyta Gruszczyk-Kolczyńska of the Maria Grzegorzewska Paedagogical University of Warsaw. In addition, participated scientific employees and lecturers as well as doctoral students of the Institute of Child Psychopathology of the Faculty of Educational Studies, specialists working at child early development support facilities in Poznań, students, teachers as well as representatives of educational and development facilities from the region of Greater Poland.

The symposium was opened by prof. dr hab. Andrzej Twardowski, head of the Institute of Child Psychopathology, who welcomed the assembled participants. The symposium was officially opened by the dean of the Faculty of Educational Studies, prof. dr hab. Agnieszka Cybal-Michalska, stressing the importance of the continuation of the mission that accompanies special education and the paradigmatic changes in the approach to disability.

The opening speech entitled *Mathematically gifted children: myths, study results, interpretations and applications* was given by prof. dr hab. Edyta Gruszczyk-Kolczyńska of the Maria Grzegorzewska Paedagogical University of Warsaw. In her speech, the researcher turned focus on the fact that the issue of mathematical talents of children is accompanied by many myths and disputes. Among others, the flawed conviction persists that mathematical talents can only be manifested by older pupils just ahead of the maturity exam, dealing with „advanced” mathematics, and that in order to master basic maths talents are required that only 8-12% of children are characterised by, in relation to which there are noted so numerous failures in learning mathematics. The speaker referred frequently to studies conducted in Poland and abroad. In addition, she indicated and discussed in detail the properties of the mind of mathematically gifted children. From the point of view of the issues of the symposium, a very important issue mentioned by prof. dr hab. Edytę Gruszczyk-Kolczyńską was discussing research results spanning mathematical talents of disabled children and pupils with special educational needs.

Second to speak was prof. dr hab. Andrzej Twardowski with the lecture *Peer tutoring in early disabled child development support*. In the introduction, he mentioned the fact that contacts with peers positively influence motor, cognitive, social and emotional development of children. In addition, he characterised the types of educational interactions with peers, which include: learning by the peer (*peer tutoring*), learning with a peer (*peer collaboration*) and learning in teams (*cooperative learning*). In a further part of his speech, the professor indicated, what the preparation of children without disabilities for the roles of tutors should entail, he described the relevant advantages, and discussed the role of the teacher as the organiser of peer tutoring. In his summary, the author stressed the special importance of peer tutoring for integrated education.

The subsequent speaker, dr Maria Paula Stasiakiewicz, spoke of the *Shantala massage as a dialogue between a toddler and their adult caretaker*. In the beginning, she highlighted theoretical questions concerning the innate equipment of man to participate in this dialogue. In her speech, she devoted much attention to the issue of innate intersubjectivity believed to be a property of the human condition, being the basis for the somatic and emotional *self* of an individual. The researcher also discussed the core of the Shantala massage, aimed at the construction of relations and at dialogue. The speech was amended by a film showing the dialogue of a tod-

dlar with their mother, and instructions concerning the execution of the Shantala massage.

After the coffee break, the stage was taken by Adam Mickiewicz University professor dr hab. Danuta Kopeć and dr hab. Hanna Kubiak, who presented the topic *Utilisation of the video training method (VIPP-SD) in work with parents of children from the developmental risk group*. The presented technique is supposed to support caretakers and their parental responsiveness and attention. As the speakers expressly stressed, the role of the parent is key, with the role of the therapist reduced to the function of a safe base for the dyad in the process of working on relational difficulties. The authors referred to empirical studies that showed that therapeutic interventions have a statistically higher influence on parental sensitivity.

The subsequent lecture on the *Schizophrenia in children* was given by dr Małgorzata Cichecka-Wilk. The speaker characterised the differential diagnosis of the illness in a selected group, and its finding. She discussed the course of schizophrenia in children and the causes for its emergence. She also presented a clinical case of a mentally ill boy. In this part, she presented the reason for the psychiatric intervention, the interview with the parents, teachers, study results and discussions with the little patient himself.

A subsequent speech by Maria Stec was entitled *Early child development support in adoptive families*. The speaker attempted to prove, why is it worthwhile to cover children in adoptive families with early support. She discussed the area of influence of the family on the child, the effects of the breaking of the biological bond and the situation in new family of a child that was rejected emotionally earlier. She also turned attention to the course of psychological processes in a child rejected by its original caretakers. In her conclusions, the author indicated the importance of the diagnosis of interactions of the child with the adoptive mother and father. She indicated the main rule of therapeutic work, which says that one should always work with the child through the parents, because it is them that the child should create a bond with.

The last lecture entitled *Technical support in the process of development support for hearing-impaired children* was given by M. Sc. Beata Iwanicka. In her speech, she noted that in order to optimise the education process of the indicated group of children, it is important to care for the reduction of architectural barriers, and to ensure appropriate technical support. Without this last component, it is impossible to facilitate the communications pro-

cess. The speaker presented devices that may significantly influence the understanding by the child of sounds flowing from the space around it. These are diverse apparatus and aids that are also useful during work with a larger group of hearing-impaired children. What is particularly important is that the correct use of technical solutions permit the reduction or elimination of social exclusion of deaf pupils.

Prof. dr hab. Andrzej Twardowski concluded and summarised the symposium. He thanked the speakers and assembled listeners for participation in the session and the discussion. He expressed his hope that the presented research will find use in educational practice, and that the presented knowledge turns out to be useful in daily work with children that are disabled or threatened by disabilities.