Definition of participation in everyday life described by disabled children and parents

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The participation of a disabled child is not self-evident. Many former researches have pointed that these children have quite often been left out of social events or they are participating in but as a sideman. Participation of a disabled child should be viewed in every part of disabled children’s life such as home, school and therapy. Participation varies a lot in these areas. It seems it is crucial how well the child is known and seen behind the diagnosis.

In this research we interviewed 6 disabled children and 6 parents. The context of participation in everyday life as at home, school and therapy. The main research question was how they define participation and what things are necessary enabling participation. The data was collected during 2016-2017. In analyze we have compared the definitions of participation (children/parents.) Interviews were analyzed by content analyzing. In this presentation I will point out specially how the children defined participation.

Definition of participation was not unambiguous. Still there are few things that enable it. Both children and parents informed that the main issue in defining participation is to look at it in their everyday life context. Disabled children should have a possibility to participate in everything as much as possible where children at their age are taking account their age and abilities. Physical barriers and prejudices are the main restricting things regarding to participation. It is important to find what things are meaningful for the children. They want to be seen one of the group, but still as an individual. They want to be in headrole in decision making process. They are deserved to have information and express their opinions about matter concerning their lives. They should have given enough options in support their decision making. Meaningful is also is that disabled child want and should be given an opportunity to take responsibility of their decisions and actions. These facts considered, the main adults in disabled children life should cooperate intensively allowing participation.

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