

Needs of families receiving early intervention: experiences in five countries

Schirin Akhbari Ziegler¹, Sevil Üzer², Rocío Palomo, Kristina Zalanskiene⁴, Mijna Hadders-Algra⁵

¹ Zurich University of Applied Sciences ZHAW, School of Health Sciences, Institute of Physiotherapy, Winterthur, Switzerland; ² Clinic for Child Neurology and Social Paediatrics, Kinderzentrum Maulbronn, Maulbronn, Germany; ³ University of Castilla-la Mancha, Spain; ⁴ Lithuanian University of Health Science, Lithuanian; ⁵ University of Groningen, University Medical Center Groningen, Department of Paediatrics, Division of Developmental Neurology, Groningen, The Netherlands

Introduction

- **Infants at risk of neurodevelopmental disorders** require early intervention (EI).
- Interventions **addressing entire family** and **meeting individual needs** of families may **positively impact family well-being & infant development**.
- **What do we know** about **needs** of parents of these infants?
- **How** do parents **experience** such interventions?
- Do the needs and experiences of parents **vary between countries** and **cultures**?

Aim of the Study

To **explore** the **needs** and **experiences** of **parents** of infants receiving **EI** in five countries: **Germany, Lithuania, Spain, Switzerland, and Turkey**.

Methods

- **Qualitative Study**
- Participants: **parents of infants at risk** of neurodevelopmental disorders living in **five different countries**
- **Having received family-centred EI** through health professionals of the **COPCA® course 2023**
- Surveyed with **questionnaires** and/or **semi-structured interviews**
- Future analyses: **quantitative content analyses**

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Preliminary Results

- **29** questionnaires completed (**15** mothers, **14** fathers)
- **10** interviews (**5** mothers, **5** fathers)
- Parents of infants at risk from different countries largely **experienced** family-centred **EI** in a **similar** way and have **similar basic** intervention **needs**.
- **Cultural differences** may become **more apparent** after the qualitative **content analysis**.

Number of responses per instrument and country

Questionnaires n= 29			Interviews n= 10		
Germany	mothers	6	Germany	mothers	2
	fathers	5		fathers	2
Lithuania	mothers	2	Lithuania	mothers	2
	fathers	1		fathers	2
Spain	mothers	4	Spain	mothers	2
	fathers	4		fathers	2
Switzerland	mothers	1	Switzerland	mothers	2
	fathers	2		fathers	2
Turkey	mothers	2	Turkey	mothers	2
	fathers	2		fathers	2

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Needs

Trustful relationship with the healthcare professional

Result of EI: **Optimal development** of the **child**

Parents desire **to be actively engaged**

Intervention should be **adapted to the individual needs** of the family

Majority prefer **home setting** (especially in infants and children with severe impairments)

Getting **tips**, getting **information**, getting **tools to help my child**, getting **ideas about activities** that can be **done at home** during **everyday life**

Experiences

Without exception, all parents were **very satisfied!**

None of the parents mentioned **unpleasant experiences**.

Parents valued to **be actively involved**

Aimed at the **whole family** and useful for **everyday life**

Parents less uncertain, gained self-confidence, felt **empowered**

Most parents were very **satisfied** with the **child's progress** and that they **themselves** were **able to contribute**

Discussion & Conclusion

- Parents of infants at risk from **different countries** have largely **similar basic** intervention **needs**.
- Parents experienced **family-centred COPCA® EI**, as **adapted to their needs** and very **helpful and satisfying**.

Contact: akhb@zhaw.ch

Zurich University of Applied Sciences, School of Health Professions, Institute of Physiotherapy, Katharina-Sulzer-Platz 9, 8401 Winterthur, Switzerland



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