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Process quality in home based childcare settings and the perspectives of childminders on their job. Insights from the MeMoQ Baseline study in Flanders (Belgium) (INDIVIDUAL PAPER PRESENTATION)

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Theme

What is the balance between universal, local strategies and individual family approaches in supporting children's learning and wellbeing?

Strand

Quality Early Childhood Education

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Research aims

This research examines the practice of home based childcare from the point of view of children and childminders. It gives an overview of observed process quality, structural factors that influence and the perspectives of childminders on pedagogical quality together with push and pull factors in their job-experience.

Relationship to previous research works

This research uses data collected in het MeMoQ baseline study (EECERA, 2017) to answer some of the questions pushed by Ang, L. (2016) in her recent review on home based care. Slot, P. et al. (2017) describe comparable research.

Theoretical and conceptual framework

Six independent dimensions are considered elements of process-quality: 'well-being', 'involvement' (SICS, Laevers et al., 2005), 'emotional' and 'educational support' (CLASS, La Paro, 2012), 'learning environment' and 'cooperation with parents and respect for diversity in society' (MeMoQ, 2014). Surveys on structural characteristics and childminders perspectives completed data collection.

Paradigm, methodology and methods

Observations in 200 home based settings are executed by 7 trained observers. 12 units are visited by two observers to check interscorer-reliability. Relations between structural characteristics and dimensions of process quality were examined.

Ethical Considerations

All participants were intensely informed and participated by mutual consent. Tools are discussed with EY-experts and stakeholders. Results are processed anonymously.

Main finding or discussion

Levels of well-being and emotional support are high, whereas involvement, educational support and environment are lower. The autonomy and the combination of the job with private life are highly valued characteristics of the job as childminder.

Implications, practice or policy

Results are used in training and support of ECEC settings. Policy uses this results in their strategic view on home based care in Flanders.

Keywords: home based care, assessment and evaluation, national baseline study, process quality, job perspective

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