

Home and family perceptions as reflected in drawings of Israeli-Arab children at risk: care centers vs. at home children

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The research aimed to examine differences in home and family perception in drawings of children at risk who have been physically abused and/or neglected. The research was conducted within two residential- care centers; boarding school and daily boarding school, and also among children living at home with their family.

78 children participated: 34 boys and 44 girls all aged between 8-11 years-old. Following standard screening procedures and obtaining written consent forms by the ministry of social welfare, their parents, the social workers and the children themselves. Every child who participated was asked to draw a house and a family. Also, background questionnaire were completed by the children social workers.

Two art therapists analyzed the obtained data, following inter rater reliability procedure and a list of indicators within the drawings: three for the house and four for the family. Analyses indicated group differences. These findings suggest that the children living in daily boarding school hold a more positive perception of their home and family compared to children living in boarding school or at home with their family.

Keywords: Maltreatment, physical abuse, neglect, boarding school, drawings, kinetic family drawing.

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