



Safeguarding
Young People in Care

Let's talk about

Addressing sex and sexuality in residential and foster care



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



Amsterdam University
of Applied Sciences





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Young People in Care

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=54&v=yLhGahDiXw



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Overview of the presentation

- Background of the project
- Showing the products of the project





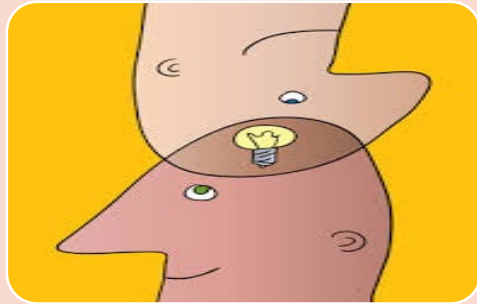
Background

- Continuing concerns about the sexual abuse of children and young people in care.
- Last two decades: increasing political attention & national investigations
- Professionals lack competencies to address sexuality, assist young people's healthy sexual development and safeguard them from sexual abuse
- Social work education should prepare (future) professionals





Development educational materials



DATABASE

Materials for
education and
inspiration

Small scale pilot by
asking input
colleagues



SUMMER SCHOOL

For students

Pilot one week in
Antwerp
Sept. 2017



ONLINE COURSE

For professionals

Pilot online, 22
organisations
Early 2018

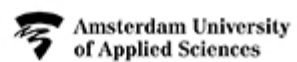




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Discussing sexuality

1. The carer, social worker or other professional has knowledge of healthy sexual development ?

- Uses correct information
- Applies knowledge of the special needs

1	2	3
4	5	6
7	8	9

2. The carer, social worker or other professional talks about sex and sexuality in a calm and positive way ?

- Uses neutral (non-accusatory) expressions
- Uses open and non-concealing (explicit) language
- Is visibly comfortable when talking about sexuality
- Normalises the experiences of young people

1	2	3
4	5	6
7	8	9

3. The carer, social worker or other professional uses existing methods and materials ?

- Uses methodologies
- Uses games
- Uses materials
- The professional chooses the right moment of use

1	2	3
4	5	6
7	8	9



Research based

- Interviews and focus groups with professionals
- Input young people – students projects
- Review online materials
 - Coding 14 guidelines and policy documents, 7 interventions, 1 training program for professionals, 1 educational program, 5 tools & instruments and 3 websites.



Characteristics of young people in care

- In general more vulnerable
- Unsafe family environment
- Insecurely attached
- Lack of positive role models

- Growing up in more than one residential group and/or foster family
- Different standards and values concerning sexuality in all these places
- No clear norms and values concerning sexuality

- Low self-esteem
- Little knowledge about (healthy) sexuality
- Inappropriate sexual behaviour
- Unhealthy choices regarding sexuality





Needs of young people in care

- healthy sexual development
- a safe environment
- support from professionals
- autonomy
 - Develop their own norms and values
 - Opportunity to have positive sexual experiences

Young person:
“becoming aware of one’s limits and
daring to say ‘no’”



Professionals should

- Act as a positive role model
- Set limits
- Help young people gain self-confidence
- Provide care and upbringing on this topic
- **Dare to talk about sex and sexuality**





5 core competencies

- Discussing sexuality
- Supporting young people's needs concerning sexual development
- Dealing with sex and sexuality in a professional way
- Dealing with differences in values and cultures regarding sex and sexuality
- Recognizing and responding to harmful sexual behavior





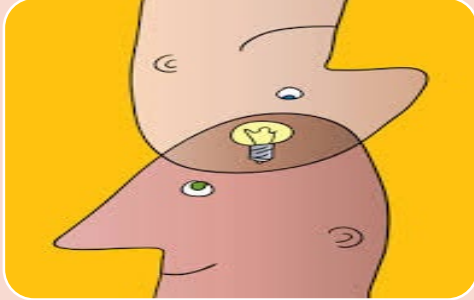
5 central themes

1. Values, rules and regulations
2. Knowledge about sexual development
3. Sexual identity & diversity
4. Sexual harmful behaviour
5. Talking about sexuality with clients





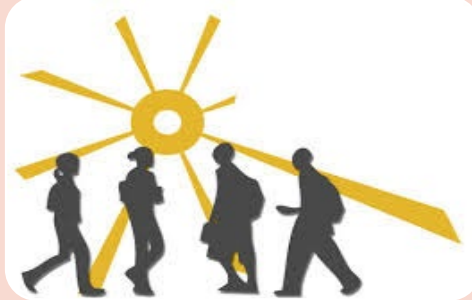
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SAFEGUARDING YOUNG PEOPLE IN CARE

Supporting a healthy sexual development of children
and young people growing up in residential and foster
care.

▶ Read more

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<http://www.amsterdamuas.com/safe>

Interested to work with these products at your applied university?

Please contact us for further information!





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Young People in Care

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Products

An international summer school

- for social work students.

An online course

- for professionals working in residential care or working with foster parents.

A website with materials

- for (European) lecturers who teach future social workers on the subject of sex and sexuality.

A reflection instrument

- As a tool for on-the-job training on the subject.