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Title/Título: Mothers and their children's schools

Madres y los centros docentes de sus hijos

Topic: Parents as educators, their challenging role and current status in school, family and community relationships

Los padres y madres como educadores, los retos de su rol y su situación actual en las relaciones que se establecen entre las familias, los centros docentes y las entidades y servicios sociales comunitarios

Presentation time/Día de presentación: Session in English. Thursday 15, 12:15-1:45 p.m. Room 3, Third Floor

Sesión en Inglés. Jueves 15, 12:15-1:45 p.m. Sala 3, Tercer Piso

Abstract

This paper is concerned with mothers' experience of involvement in and with their children's schools in the UK. It arose out of a desire to explore the impact of this experience on mothers in an attempt to go some way to redress the balance since so much of the research in the UK to date is concerned with the impact of this involvement on schools, the staff and the children. However it may also serve to address another imbalance, the use of the term "parental involvement" in place of the more correct term, mothers' involvement. Inherent in this is a discussion of motherhood, what it means to be a "good mother", linking this to the notion of sensitive mothering. The usefulness of this concept is explored in relation to an ethnographic informed study involving a group of mothers who share their thoughts on motherhood in general, and in particular, on their experiences of involvement in their children's schools in the UK.