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Title/ Título: Children and Youngsters at Risk

Niños y jóvenes en situación de riesgo

Topic: Cultural, technological and multicultural aspects of school, family and community partnerships

Aspectos culturales y multiculturales de 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 Spanish/Portuguese. Friday 16, 10:15-11:45 a.m. Conference Room, Ground Floor

Sesión en Español/ Portugués. Viernes 16, 10:15-11:45 a.m. Sala de Cámara, Planta Baja

Abstract

The aim of this paper: "*Children and youngsters at risk*" is to investigate whether encouraging work and leisure usages among native African families can contribute to a better school integration of these children. In a case study, we followed a qualitative and quantitative methodology according to Bloom (1982), Estrela (1990), Fortin (1999), Tuckman (1994) and Villas-Boas (2000). The study included two groups, one of control and the other experimental. The experimental one was subjected to an action research programme in the form of "home visits". The data was obtained through questionnaires to the teachers, a semantic and differential scale for the children of the survey, participative observations and control records for the parents. The programme lasted six months during which we checked that children parents who were submitted to an intervention at the home visit had improved their behaviours at school relating to the control group, who was not subjected to any programme. This research allowed us to conclude that negative behaviours registered at the beginning and the end of the school year by the teachers had positively modified for the experimental group. This programme seemed to be very useful, once it had shown that the family environment was of conflict, which included psychological and physical aggressions that seemed to be on the origin of the problem. The home visit intervention was useful because the families felt themselves very well supported by the visitor researcher and were able to change positively their children behaviour education at school.