

**Italian pre-service teachers' perceptions about "home visits"****Addimando, Loredana and Pepe, Alessandro.** Università di Milano-Bicocca, Italy

One common goal of parental involvement programmes is to help parents create a growth-promoting environment for their children (Brooks-Gunn, Berlin, & Fuligni, 2000). Home visits are sometimes conceived as opportunities to build a supportive and continuing one-to-one relationship between teachers and families (Weiss, 1993). In Italy there are many programs to involve parents in school activities, but little effort is devoted to understand the family background.

What is the use of home visits according to Italian teachers? And what are their general perceptions about these activities? The authors conducted a focus group aimed to understand perceptions about the use of home visits. The sample (N=15) was composed by perspective teachers, enrolled in a pre-service specialization course. The texts produced during the interview were studied mainly from a thematic point of view (main themes and disclosure), and from a dynamic point of view (rhetorical strategies; conversational characteristics; patterns of interaction; discourse construction) through statistical techniques (explorative factor analysis, cluster analysis etc). The main results of the research reveal dilemmas and strong doubts about the professional and ethical implications of home-visit practices in Italian cultural milieu.