

Professional development workshops in coexistence and interpersonal skills, for educators of children with special educational needs

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Abstract

The following experience describes the implementation and outcomes of workshops held annually since 2003 for educators from the *Belen* welfare institution for children with disabilities, Talca City. The workshops consist of ongoing training for the staff on coexistence and interpersonal treatment, with the aim of bringing about better interpersonal relationships inside the institution; effective, assertive and timely intervention with residents; and give rise to self-care strategies. The methodology of the workshops focuses on working groups, with theoretical and practical experiences. Experiences over the last three years have resulted in educators not only promoting good interpersonal treatment, but also developing their own professional abilities, tools and action strategies that improve the climate and human relationships inside the institution. This in turn has led to noticeable improvement in adaptive behavior among the children and young people resident at the center.

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