

INTIMACY AND DISTANCE

How do we manage intimacy and distance in a professional environment with children and young adults in wich all feel comfortable, heard, seen and safe

STATMENTS

- Fearing abuse should not be a reason to neglect the intimate needs of a child
- There is evidence and research that a child needs intimacy and love to survive
- Acknowledge as a professional that there is no way we can replace a parent – Werner Helsper
- educational love must not be confused with desiring love – Hermann Nohl
- there is a risk for burnout if a professional can't set healthy boundaries

GOALS

- Give the child / teenager a voice and power over when and how they want intimacy or distance
- talking about rights and risks of both parties involved and developing stretchable boundaries
- **a healthier relationship between the professional (socialworker/caretaker) and the child (care reciever/leaver) to ensure a better development of the child**



HOW TO:

- Open Door policy (no locked doors)
- Extern quality control
- Care cards
- Guidelines manifested in the institution

GUIDELINES



- Never assume – Always ask
- Consent/respect goes both ways
- Active sexual-education (age appropriate)
- Educate on bodyawareness
- Daily active feedback and reflection
- Frequent supervision and intervision
- Never be a bystander – Always speak up

EXAMPLES FOR CARE-CARDS



I want a hug



I need space



Handshake



STOP!