Abstracts:
Umgangskontakte bei Pflegekindern

2006 – 1997

Reviews

AN: 2003-00543-006
TI: Understanding and Supporting Parent–Child Relationships during Foster Care Visits: Attachment Theory and Research.
AU: Haight,-Wendy-L; Kagle,-Jill-Doner; Black,-James-E
IS: 0037-8046
PT: Journal; Peer-Reviewed-Journal
AB: Parent visitation, the scheduled, face-to-face contacts between parents and their children in foster care, is the primary intervention for maintaining and supporting the development of parent-child relationships necessary for reunification. A review of the child welfare literature, however, reveals that for some parents and children, visits are problematic. Indeed, parents and children's experiences of visits, the quality of interaction observed during visits, and outcomes for children vary widely. The parent-child attachment relationship is one important factor influencing the quality of visits. Attachment theory and research indicate that there are universal, developmental, variable, and problematic aspects of attachment relationships. These aspects of attachment relationships provide a heuristic approach for understanding, assessing, and intervening in parent-child relationships during foster care visits. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2005 APA, all rights reserved) (journal abstract)

AN: 2005-07659-002
TI: Enhancing Parent-Child Interaction During Foster Care Visits: Experimental Assessment of an Intervention.
AU: Haight,-Wendy-L; Mangelsdorf,-Sarah; Black,-James; Szewczyk,-Margaret; Schoppe,-Sarah; Giorgio,-Grace; Madrigal,-Karen; Tata,-Lakshmi
IS: 0009-4021
PT: Journal; Peer-Reviewed-Journal
AB: Mothers of young children recently placed in foster care participated in an intervention to enhance parent-child interaction during visits. The mothers all reported substantial loss and trauma histories. Immediately prior to the visits, the mothers were coached on strategies for separating from their children at the visit's end. The mothers displayed more behavioral strategies for supporting their children when the visit was over, but were less engaged with their children during the leave-taking sequence and displayed fewer ways of maintaining the child's involvement in mother-child interaction during leave-taking than those in a comparison group. This article discusses consideration of parents' trauma history in designing interventions to enhance parent-child interaction. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2005 APA, all rights reserved) (journal abstract)

Æ auch bei „präventive Interventionen bei Pflegefamilien bzw. Pflegekindern“

AN: 2004-15875-005
TI: Improving the lives of children in foster care: The impact of supervised visitation.
AU: McWey,-Lenore-M; Mullis,-Ann-K
IS: 0197-6664
PT: Journal; Peer-Reviewed-Journal
AB: Our purpose was to test a model explaining the quality of attachment of 123 children in foster care receiving supervised visitation with their biological parents. The results indicated that for families in which reunification is a goal, children who have more consistent and frequent contact with their biological parents have stronger attachments than children who have less contact. In addition, relationships between attachment and indicators of adjustment were examined. Children with higher levels of attachment had fewer behavioral problems, were less likely to take psychiatric medication, and were less likely to be termed "developmentally delayed" than were children with negative levels of attachment. Implications of these findings for case workers and other family service providers are discussed. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2005 APA, all rights reserved) (journal abstract)

AN: 2003-99694-009
TI: Thinking About and Managing Contact in Permanent Placements: The Differences and Similarities Between Adoptive Parents and Foster Carers.
AU: Neil,-Elsbeth; Beek,-Mary; Schofield,-Gillian
IS: 1359-1045
PT: Journal; Peer-Reviewed-Journal
AB: Children permanently separated from their birth families have to manage life-long issues of attachment, identity and loss. This article focuses on the issue of postplacement contact and discusses the qualities of foster carers and adopters that can best help children negotiate such issues when contact occurs. Two linked research studies provide data on young adopted children, and children in middle childhood placed in long-term foster care. Almost all foster children were found to be having frequent face-to-face contact, compared with only a small minority of adopted children. However, face-to-face contact was found to be more straightforward in the adoptive families, largely because such young children had less complex relationships with their birth relatives and easier relationships with their new parents. Adopters were centrally involved in contact meetings and able to act autonomously, whereas the experience of foster carers was much more varied, with some feeling excluded from decision-making. In both placement types, sensitive and empathic thinking and accepting values of foster carers and adopters were vital in helping children use contact meetings to make sense of their membership of two families. When such parental attributes were present, a wide range of... (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2005 APA, all rights reserved) (journal abstract)

Æ auch bei "Vergleichende Studien"

AN: 2003-01084-006
TI: Parental visiting, conflicting allegiances, and emotional and behavioral problems among foster children.
AU: Leathers,-Sonya-J
IS: 0197-6664
PT: Journal; Peer-Reviewed-Journal
AB: This study tested the hypothesis that frequent parental visiting is associated with foster children's conflicting allegiances to foster families and biological parents among a random sample of 199 young adolescents placed in family foster care for longer than 1 year. Conflicting allegiances were expected to be associated with emotional and behavioral disturbance. Results are consistent with the hypothesis that frequent visitation is potentially difficult for foster children because of the loyalty conflicts that might accompany frequent visiting. These results suggest that interventions designed to reduce loyalty conflicts might improve the adaptation of high-risk foster children. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2005 APA, all rights reserved)

AN: 2002-06359-003
TI: Parental visiting and family reunification: Could inclusive practice make a difference?
AU: Leathers,-Sonya-J
IS: 0009-4021
PT: Journal; Peer-Reviewed-Journal
AB: Examined whether inclusive practice, or parental involvement in foster children's lives while in placement, is correlated with more frequent visiting and a greater likelihood of reunification. Current adaptation to foster care was also studied. Subjects were a random sample of 230 young people (aged 12-13 yrs) placed in traditional nonrelative family foster care. Results show that mothers who
visit their child in the foster home and are involved in case reviews and child care activities visit more frequently than mothers who visit in settings such as agency offices and have no other types of involvement. In addition, visiting frequency is highly predictive of reunification. These associations are not explained by maternal substance abuse, mental illness, or the child's placement history. Inclusive practice is not found to be associated with either better or worse child adaptation. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2005 APA, all rights reserved)
"Contact irregular": A qualitative analysis of the impact of visiting patterns of natural parents on foster placements.

By studying descriptions of visiting patterns of 113 foster placements this study attempts to examine how parental access affects the foster child. A qualitative analysis of the written accounts offered by social workers yielded 4 distinct visiting patterns: regular and frequent, regular but infrequent, infrequent, and no access. The nature of the analysis also allowed for a redefinition of placement outcome into 3 categories: successful placements, ambiguous placements and crisis placements. Because the categories that emerged from the qualitative analysis were mutually exclusive it was possible to examine, using chi square, whether there was a quantitative relationship between the variables 'Placement status' and 'Visiting patterns'. Analysis of the categorical data showed a statistically significant relationship between visiting patterns and placement outcome. This relationship, however, was not based on how visiting related to successful or crisis placements. Instead it was evident that those placements categorized as ambiguous were far more likely to report infrequent visiting patterns. Case examples offer an opportunity to examine possible reasons for this relationship.

Integrating family visitation and risk evaluation: A practical bonding model for decision makers.

Applies a family bonding perspective to address the practical side of risk assessment for children already in foster care. The authors present a conceptual model that attaches numerical value to the various components of the parent-child bond and demonstrate how the model can be operationalized during supervised visitations. Using data from a family visitation center on 43 families, the authors demonstrate the model’s potential for interagency collaboration in the permanency placement decision-making process.

Contact between children placed away from home and their birth parents: Research issues and evidence.

The importance of maintaining contact between children temporarily or permanently looked after from their birth parents is now believed to be so important to their psychosocial development as to be written into the Children Act (1989). This position has been argued both on the basis of the rights of children and birth parents and on the claimed strength of the research evidence concerning the positive effects of contact and the negative consequences of its absence. The quality of the research evidence is reviewed. It is concluded that evidence on either the beneficial or adverse effects of contact is not strong and that the design and/or analysis of existing studies contain a number of weaknesses that preclude clear research-based guidance to practitioners.

Behavioral correlates of parental visiting during family foster care.

Explored the effects of visits with biological parents on foster care children's emotional and behavioral adjustment and academic functioning. 49 children (5-18 yrs old) referred for therapy for
behavior problems and 19 controls (not referred for therapy) were given the Child Behavior Checklist and the Wide Range Achievement Test--Revised. Frequency of visiting was found to be generally low and to be related to both the length of time the children had been in care and the number of placements they had experienced. Those children who were visited more frequently were found to exhibit fewer internalizing behavior problems than those visited less frequently or not at all. Marginal differences were also found on externalizing behaviors. No effects of the different levels of visiting were seen for educational achievement. These behavioral correlates of visiting were, however, to depend on the type of behavior focused on and the degree of adjustment the child had made to family foster care. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2005 APA, all rights reserved)
1996 – 1987

AN: 1996-09232-001
TI: Parental contact with children fostered and in residential care after the Children Act 1989.
AU: Bilson,-Andy; Barker,-Richard
IS: 0045-3102
PT: Journal; Peer-Reviewed-Journal
AB: Social workers completed surveys regarding the degree of contact between 848 children in foster care or in residential facilities and their parents following the implementation of the Children Act 1989 in the UK. Results show that previous estimates of the numbers of children who have no contact with parents may have underestimated the extent of the problem. Results suggest the instability of placements in care and show differences in face to face contact that depend on the length of time in care or accommodation and the reason for entry, and differences between children placed in residential and foster care. If children had spent long periods in care, they tended to have little contact with SWs. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2005 APA, all rights reserved)

AN: 1996-04656-004
TI: Parental visiting and foster care reunification.
AU: Davis,-Inger-P; Landsverk,-John; Newton,-Rae; Ganger,-William
IS: 0190-7409
PT: Journal; Peer-Reviewed-Journal
AB: Correlated parental visiting with permanency planning outcomes and developed a logistic regression model predicting family reunification. Findings show that the majority of children with maternal and paternal visits at the level recommended by the court were reunified, but no association was found between parental visiting and recidivism of reunified children at a 12 mo follow-up. Maternal visiting at the recommended level was the strongest predictor of reunification among the five study variables included in the regression model, indicating that a child visited by the mother as recommended was approximately 10 times more likely to be reunified. Information is also included on parental visiting in traditional and kinship foster homes and across three ethnic groups. Implications of study findings for child welfare practice are discussed. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2005 APA, all rights reserved) (journal abstract)

AN: 1994-03110-001
TI: Well-being and parental contact of foster children in Israel: A different situation from the USA?
AU: Mosek,-Atalia
IS: 0020-8728
PT: Journal; Peer-Reviewed-Journal
AB: Examined the relationship between a foster child's well-being and the frequency and quality of the relationship with the natural family. 45 foster children (FC) (aged 8-12 yrs) in Israel and their 34 foster families were interviewed on their perceptions of and attitudes toward self, friends, and biological and foster families. The interview was based on the Personal Adjustment Inventory. Most FC had visits with their biological families, with little change in frequency of parental visits over time. Results show that, in Israel, FC have difficulties in adjustment, mainly in the interpersonal domains of interaction with peers and family. There was a significant correlation between the foster child's social and family adjustment and the expected length of stay in foster care. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2005 APA, all rights reserved)

AN: 1993-21387-001
TI: Keeping in touch: Ecological factors related to foster care visitation.
AU: Oyserman,-Daphna; Benbenishty,-Rami
IS: 0738-0151
PT: Journal; Peer-Reviewed-Journal
AB: Described patterns and characteristics of home and foster family visitation and telephone contact in a national sample of 590 children (aged 1-18 yrs) in foster care in Israel. Relations between child, biological, and foster family characteristics are explored by type of contact and foster placement. Parent-child contact was most strongly related to foster family characteristics and relations with the biological family. Patterns differ for relative and nonrelative foster families. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2005 APA, all rights reserved)

AN: 1993-02928-001
TI: Kin visiting and the biological attachment of long-term foster children.
AU: Poulin,-John-E
IS: 0148-8376
PT: Journal; Peer-Reviewed-Journal
AB: Examined the relationship between visiting by extended family members and biological family attachment for 92 long-term foster children (mean age 10.8 yrs). Correlation and regression analyses revealed that kin visiting had a significant association with family attachment. The effect that kin visiting had on the foster children's family attachment was independent of the influences foster family attachment, parental visiting, and age at placement have on the relationship. The findings highlight the importance of biological family involvement for children in placement. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2005 APA, all rights reserved)

AN: 1993-02927-001
AU: Palmer,-Sally-E
IS: 0190-7409
PT: Journal; Peer-Reviewed-Journal
AB: Compared Canadian and British social workers in terms of the level of inclusiveness reflected in child placement practices. Social workers completed questionnaires focusing on the handling of child placement; 227 child cases from Canada and 141 child cases from the UK were reviewed. Inclusiveness was operationalized as (1) involvement in preparation for placement and (2) number of contacts between birth families and children, as well as worker contacts with birth families. British children were more likely to have their parents present at the time of placement, to be accompanied by parents to the foster home, and to have more contact with their extended families. Contact with birth parents was equivalent in the 2 countries. British social workers had more contacts with children. Overall, British agencies were more inclusive. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2005 APA, all rights reserved)

⇒ auch bei “Vergleichende Studien”

AN: 1992-24767-001
TI: The Family Connection Center: An innovative visiting program.
AU: Hess,-Peg; Mintun,-Garth; Moelhman,-Amy; Pitts,-Gayla
IS: 0009-4021
PT: Journal; Peer-Reviewed-Journal
AB: Describes an innovative visiting program developed by the Family Connection Center (FCC) in 1989. The FCC has provided visit-related services for 1,130 children (900 of whom were in placement) and their families. The FCC services are designed to maintain family relations, empower parents, help family members face reality, assure opportunities for family members to practice new behaviors, and assess family progress accurately. Visiting is viewed as a planned intervention integral to the reunification process, premised on case goals, assessment of family functioning, and assessment of risk to the child. FCC offers a viable alternative resource to protect children's relationships with their families while also protecting the children. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2005 APA, all rights reserved)

AN: 1992-14227-001
TI: The Family Reunification Project: Facilitating regular contact among foster children, biological families, and foster families.
A 16-wk pilot program, sponsored and carried out by mental health practitioners, created a neutral and supportive setting for structured visits of 3 biological mothers and 1 father, their 8 children (aged 5-9 yrs) in placement, and 4 foster mothers. The results were sufficiently promising to warrant planning for a more extensive, research-based program. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2005 APA, all rights reserved)

Examined the determinants of the frequency of planned parental visits to children in foster or adoptive care through interviews with 15 caseworkers in 5 agencies. Eight categories emerged as considerations in scheduling the frequency of parent-child visiting: court orders and influence of others, agency policies and norms, agency resources, placement-related considerations, case goals, parental progress toward case goals and case phase, children's characteristics, parents' characteristics, and the parent-child relationship. It is argued that frequent visiting by parents is a critical component of treatment planning and that agencies need to assess the impact of visiting policies on treatment. Staff supervision issues are discussed. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2005 APA, all rights reserved)

Conducted a nationwide survey of the parent-child visiting policies of 103 voluntary agencies providing foster care services. The majority of agencies had either developed their own visiting policy (54%) or adopted the policy of a public agency (18%), but a sizable minority (28%) had no visiting policy in effect. Those policies that had been developed emphasized the child's therapeutic needs and contained few standards regarding preferred frequency or location of visits or agency services to facilitate visiting. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2005 APA, all rights reserved)
1986 – 1977

AN: 1987-27881-001
TI: Long term foster care, natural family attachment and loyalty conflict.
AU: Poulin,-John-E
IS: 0148-8376
PT: Journal; Peer-Reviewed-Journal
AB: Assessed the influence natural family involvement has on the adjustment of 80 foster children (average age 10.8 yrs). Ss had been in care 2 or more years, and placement goals included continued foster care. The effect kin visiting had was examined in terms of reaction to separation, time in care, foster family attachment, frequency of kin visiting, natural family attachment, and loyalty conflict. About half of the Ss were visited fairly regularly, almost one-third had strong psychological attachments to their families of origin, and about one-quarter had severe loyalty conflicts. The strongest predictor of loyalty conflict was natural family attachment. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2005 APA, all rights reserved)

AN: 1987-22977-001
TI: Parental visiting of children in foster care.
AU: Proch,-Kathleen; Howard,-Jeanne-A
IS: 0037-8046
PT: Journal; Peer-Reviewed-Journal
AB: Examined the case records of 256 children (aged birth to 12 yrs) in foster care to study agency practices related to parent-child visiting and the impact of these practices. Results indicate that there were visiting plans in 70% of the cases, with some involving a specific written plan. The plans included only the mothers in approximately one-half of the cases. There was no relationship between frequency of scheduled visits and the child's age. Visits were more likely to be scheduled more frequently and in the parental home when the case plan specified that the child was to eventually return home. Most parents complied with the visiting schedules and did not visit if there was no plan or if visits were not regularly scheduled. The agency staff seldom took any action to encourage visiting other than scheduling visits and transporting the child, but neither did they overtly discourage visiting in most cases. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2005 APA, all rights reserved)

AN: 1986-22655-001
TI: Infants and toddlers in supervised custody: A pilot study of visitation.
AU: Gean,-Margaret-P; Gillmore,-Janet-L; Dowler,-Jeffrey-K
PT: Journal; Peer-Reviewed-Journal
AB: Conducted a retrospective chart study to define the impact of visitation by biologic relatives on children under the age of 3 yrs who were in foster care or other custodial circumstances. The records of 23 children consisting of medical, developmental, psychiatric, and social histories as well as interviews with all persons involved with the child were reviewed. Location of visits, number of placements, and primary caregiver's attitudes toward visitation were significantly related to the children's presenting symptoms. Visits by the child in the biologic relative's home resulted in more difficulties than visits in other settings. Negative behavioral configurations of oppositional behavior, crying, and clinging were observed in Ss with several changes in caregivers. Caregivers who were overtly anxious and opposed to visits had children who demonstrated more negative symptoms than comparison caregivers. Strategies for minimizing distress associated with visitation are discussed. (30 ref) (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2005 APA, all rights reserved)

AN: 1985-17184-001
TI: Parental visiting and foster placement.
AU: Mech,-Edmund-V
IS: 0009-4021
PT: Journal; Peer-Reviewed-Journal
AB: Analyzed the association between parental visiting and time spent in foster care using data on 1,559 children included in the National Study of Social Services to Children and Their Families by A. W. Shyne and A. A. Schroeder (1978). Controlling for race/ethnicity and geographical region, analysis underscored the importance of parental visiting for achieving permanency in foster care. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2005 APA, all rights reserved)
1976 – 1967