

A Foster Parents Perspective: An evaluation of support services provided to foster parents while caring for a foster child

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Abstract

This research aims to identify how foster parents feel supported in their role. Much of the research previously conducted in this area's shows that many foster parents feel they do not have any support, all the while being asked to go above and beyond for the child in their care.

This research aims to make prominent how foster parents feel they have not had the support and will look for emerging themes within each participant's experiences, creating a detailed account of why foster parents feel unsupported.

Introduction

The researcher will do this by performing a qualitative study. Qualitative research methods allow the researcher an opportunity to gain a more personal and detailed account of the feelings of those involved. The researcher has chosen qualitative research as the research is non experimental and will be carried out by discussing the main topic with those most affected.

In order to successfully complete the research, the researcher will review previous research within this area and note any similarities.



Method

The researcher chose to perform a qualitative research study as it was believed that the qualitative research would allow the researcher a more accurate and more personal account of how foster parents feel supported in their role.

“Qualitative research was typically designed to reveal a range of experiences and identify commonalities and differences between groups or individuals” Townsend, A., Cox, S. M., & Li, L. C. (2010).

When conducting any form of research, the researcher must be mindful not to offend, upset, embarrass or take advantage of the interviewee's. The questions asked are often personal. Privacy is essential.

Results

By conducting a qualitative research analysis the researcher was able to identify reoccurring themes within each individual interview and create a research project which focused on the emerging themes.

Discussion

All participants made a connection between negative experiences and support services provided to them at this time. Most prominent to the researcher when conducting interviews with participants was that, while all participants had several situations which impacted them and their families in a negative way, the overall opinion on being a foster parent was a positive one.

References

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