
Abstract

Investigation of how the Tavistock Observation Method works in childcare

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The purpose of this study was to clarify observers' approaches and the process model by applying the Tavistock Observation Method, which can improve the childcare workers' understanding of children. Using a cycle of observation and consultation, along with a supervisor's cooperation, in two cases, the observers identified and incorporated the children's negative emotions and the childcare workers' distress that arose during their involvement with the children. The observers found overlaps in the obtained information and shared their feelings, thoughts, and hypotheses with the childcare workers. Through this approach, the childcare workers became more clearly aware of what they felt was difficult about the children, and consequently incorporated the observers' hypotheses and generated hypotheses about their responses to the children. These processes have been presented as a multi-layered cyclical model for the improvement of understanding children by applying the Tavistock Observation Method. Since this study focused on the observers' efforts, it will be necessary to explore the process on the part of childcare workers in the future.

Keywords: clinical childcare, Tavistock Observation Method, consultation, reflections
