

Educational Needs for Children with Mental Illnesses



VIOLETA S. ROTĂRESCU PHD
AS. PROFESSOR – UNIVERSITY OF BUCHAREST

Summary



- **Mental health and children**
- **Education in hospitals**
- **What to do**
- **Conclusions**

A logic path for the mental health problems' approach



- Noticing the problem the child seems to have (Parent, Educator, Care-giver, Child himself);
- Reporting the problem to the specialist (Physician, Psychologist);
- Defining and diagnosing the problem;
- Establishing the treatment and implementing it;
- Monitoring the intervention (ex. reactions to medication and to psychological therapy) in hospital, school etc;
- Assessing the progress of the intervention;

Types of mental health problems in children

- Attention Problems and Disruptive Behavior Disorders
- Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder
- Oppositional Defiant Disorder
- **Conduct Disorder**
- Anxiety Disorders
 - ✦ Separation Anxiety Disorder
 - ✦ Generalized Anxiety Disorder
 - ✦ Panic Disorder
 - ✦ Selective Mutism
 - ✦ Phobias
- Obsessive–Compulsive Disorder
- **Posttraumatic Stress Disorder**
- Mood Disorders
 - ✦ Depressive Disorders
 - ✦ Bipolar Disorder
- Tic Disorders
- Developmental Disabilities
 - ✦ Mental Retardation
 - ✦ Autism Spectrum Disorders
- **Psychotic Disorders**
- Eating and Elimination Disorders
 - ✦ Eating Disorders
 - ✦ Elimination Disorders
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Hospitalization – acute/chronic patients



- **Short term hospitalization - acute (up to two weeks)**
- **Long term hospitalization - chronic (longer than 2 weeks)**

Education for children under treatment



- **In ordinary schools**
- **At home**
- **In Hospitals – according to Article 121/Paragraph 1/
Letters a) and f) (New Criminal Code Romania,
2014)**

Education out of school - Hospitals



- **Department for Chronic Pediatric Patients**
- **Hospitalization:**
 - longer than 3 months,
 - indicated by judge decision/ psychiatric specialist,
 - under the certitude of a psychiatric diagnosis (linked to the criminal act or equivalent)
 - the patient has preserved the ability to learn/ acquire information, despite the psychiatric treatment
 - most common diagnoses: conduct disorders (all types, and associated disorders – ADHD, neuro-developmental disorders, etc)
 - Ex: Voila Hospital

Voila Hospital case



- School from first to eighth class
- 50-60 students
- In case of not enough children for one separate class, then a mixed class is made
- Teachers are specially assigned to this school
- Classes from 9.00 to 16.00.

What to do



- **Clear-cut diagnosis**
- **Set reasonable aims**
- **Adjust curricula to each case**
- **Teach teachers to manage the specificity of the situation**
- **Less students in each class, compared to an ordinary class**

Conclusions



- Hospital schools for children with mental health problems differ from those from other hospitals
- Their necessity is recognized by 3 Ministers (Health, Justice, Education)
- Motivation for learning and outcomes are highly dependent of pathology, associated disorders and cultural settings.
- More research is needed.