

## ANALYTICAL SUMMARY

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### Family Quality of Life: Framework, Assessment and Intervention

**ABSTRACT:** This paper offers an approach to recent literature on Family Quality of Life, underlining relevant features for framing and guiding assessment and intervention practices, both for practitioners and organizations for people with intellectual and development disabilities. This work is a part of a larger project that has been developed in a collaborative way by authors and professionals serving families in GORABIDE (Biscay Association Supporting People with Intellectual Disabilities), funded by the Biscay Province Council. Most of this text was analyzed and discussed with GORABIDE's staff. Some questions we have tried to answer here are: what does scientific literature says about Family Quality of Life's conceptual framework and dimensions?, what factors do usually influence it?, what are the most frequent models and instruments for assessment and intervention with families?

**KEY WORDS:** family quality of life; assessment; intervention; intellectual disability.

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## Early Detection and Intervention for Autism Spectrum Disorders in Toddlers

**ABSTRACT:** The importance of screening and early intervention in autism spectrum disorders (ASD) has gained great interest not only for the scientific societies but also for the health and welfare systems. In order to facilitate the selection and implementation of the best screening procedures and intervention programs for children at early ages and their families, it is necessary an updated and synthesized review of the experiences and studies carried out so far that would show the most relevant aspects of these methods. After carrying out this revision, several important considerations were extracted aiming for critical analysis of screening programs in place, as well as recommendations for future experiences. In addition, the review of studies on the effectiveness of early intervention programs provides an encouraging scenery, indicating that these are becoming more frequent, systematic and methodologically appropriate. We have walked a long journey, but much work remains to be done.

**KEY WORDS:** autism screening; early intervention; treatment.

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## Reflections on Positive Behavior Support

**ABSTRACT:** Positive Behavior Support (PBS) is a scientific movement that unites two lines of work, one under the Applied Behavioral Analysis and the other of a more theoretical type, that collects concepts described and developed in the field of intellectual disabilities. In the beginning it was an intervention addressed to challenging behavior with positive procedures as opposed to the abuse of negative practices (aversive). Step by step, it was found that the positive techniques needed to be applied preventively and proactively to educate and reinforce skills whose functional equivalence is the same as that which motivated the problem behaviors. Finally, keys from a theoretical line and context were introduced, such as quality standards, values, and so on. Today PBS has transcended its first task and has become a way to work in any service, regardless of whether or not there are challenging behaviors, furthermore, it's being implemented in school, court and seniors contexts. However, PBS has many challenges, including the operational definition of concepts that fall under the theoretical side and it's discriminative development. Moreover, for some, the abuse of speech in relation to the lack of operational realization and use of indisputable concepts (which no one would doubt, such as positive) presents a danger to the scientific credibility of PBS.

**KEY WORDS:** Positive Behavioral Support; services; results.

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## Disability or functional diversity?

**ABSTRACT:** Currently, there are three approaches we can use to discuss what is still labelled as disability: medical, social and biopsychosocial (the latter being an attempt to integrate and ameliorate the conflict between the first two). The *Foro de Vida Independiente* (FVI) [Forum for Independent Living], and the authors and activists who help to expand their proposals, celebrate the significant progress achieved by the biopsychosocial approach, but remain dissatisfied with it and propose a new model called *functional diversity*, a hermeneutic version of the social approach.

This article attempts to identify the problems that the model of functional diversity poses to applied ethics, focussing in particular on two issues. The first is: if we now consider that an impairment should be interpreted only as diversity, What arguments would we have against parental decisions not to correct a physical, intellectual or developmental impairment in their children even though such an intervention were effective, reasonable and safe? And what arguments would we have in order to avoid those parents causing them an impairment? The second problem is: How can we justify the need for affirmative action (more resources and attention, more medical and technological research for people with functional diversity) or even justify providing support, if we consider that their way of functioning is not better or worse than any other?

**KEY WORDS:** disability; functional diversity; ethics; moral philosophy; definition; approach; Forum for Independent Living.

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