

Enhancing Participation in the Habilitation Process: Insights from Children with Disabilities and Caregivers

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Rational

Children with disabilities as a group are not always given space to make their voices heard or answer questions that affect them and their daily lives.

A well-functioning collaboration within child-and youth habilitation centres promotes the well-being of the child and the family.

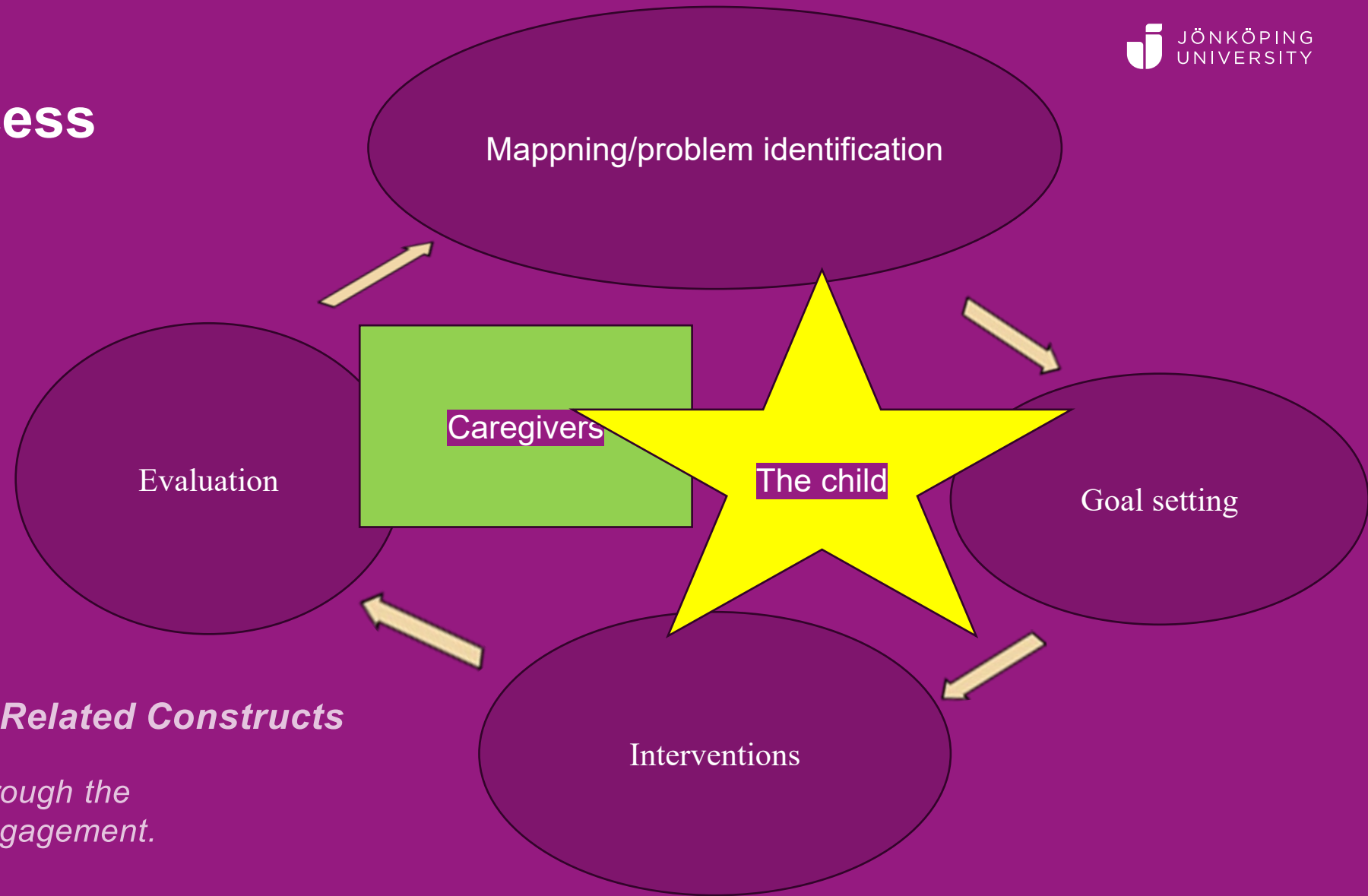
When children and caregivers are attended to and engaged in the habilitation process, the chances of positive results increase.



Purpose

To explore how children and caregivers perceive their participation in the habilitation process

Habilitation process



The Family of Participation-Related Constructs

Participation can be explained through the dimensions of attendance and engagement.

Methods

Study	I	II
Design	An inductive and qualitative descriptive approach	An inductive and qualitative descriptive approach
Recruitment	From four child and youth habilitation centres in southern Sweden	From four child and youth habilitation centres in southern Sweden
Inclusion criteria	Children aged 12 to 21, receiving ongoing services, and able to understand and speak Swedish	Caregivers of children who receive ongoing services, and able to understand and speak Swedish
Procedure	Letters distributed by professionals or representatives from interest organizations	Letters distributed by professionals or representatives from interest organizations
Data Collection	Two individual interviews and two group interviews	Four focus group interviews
Analysis	Qualitative content analysis	Qualitative content analysis

Results

Children's Perceptions of Participation

- Individually adapted information and structure
- Participation in the moment
- The importance of time management
- Trust is essential
- Influence of attitudes and treatment
- Participation in planning but not in the goal-setting



Results

Caregivers' Perceptions of Participation

- The importance of information for participation
- Relationships as a basis for safety and participation
- The impact of participation on safety
- Adaptation to the child's changing needs
- Valuation of time and need for support
- Trust in the professionals



Forward

Children and caregivers have different needs and expectations regarding information and support in the habilitation process

Children: The environment's impact on motivation and participation

Caregivers: Professional support in their caregiving role.

A family-centred, flexible approach with clear roles and continuous participation meets short- and long-term needs





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