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# SPAHCO

## **SOCIAL SKILLS**

# **DIRECT OBSERVATION METHOD**



# Adult responsiveness

- **In general, parents don't listen actively to their children, especially when they are talking to other parents (parks, birthday parties...)**
- **They make a prompt reply, but without really analyzing children needs (e.g. a child asks for water and maybe he's hot)**



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# Conflicts between kids

- **Two extremes:**
  - **Lack of interest for children problems (we do not deep on the real problem, we should work on that and allow them to resolve their conflicts on their own. E.g.: a child who need to learn sharing things)**
  - **Too interventionists when there are conflicts with other people. We tend to protect them too much**



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# Love and affection

- **The expression of love and affection diminishes as the child grows. It is normal to give lots of kisses and hugs to very little children, and hardly any expression to children from 8-9 onwards**
- **Parents do not realize children need their expression of love and affection**



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# Unhealthy attitudes

- **Mums smoking even with their children in their arms**
- **Drinking is common place in any kind of meeting, even birthday parties (not abusively)**



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# Adults' behaviour in front of children

- **Parents do not think on the mirroring effect (do not mind yelling or cursing in front of them)**
- **Parents say: “Do what I say and not what I do”**



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# Explanations to children

- **Little explanation. They do not guarantee children have understood, or do not try to convince them.**
- **They rather impose things than explain their reasons.**
- **Sometimes parents undervalue children comprehension capacity**



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# Violence towards children

- **Verbal violence is a common practice (humiliating vocabulary)**
- **Physical violence, silencing, ignoring – very rare.**





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# Conclusions

- **Parents lack parenting skills (even people with good social skills)**
- **External factors (stress, social economic status...) have a direct influence on this lack.**