

Fachforum 1.11b

Das entführte Kind – Betrachtung aus psychologischer Sicht

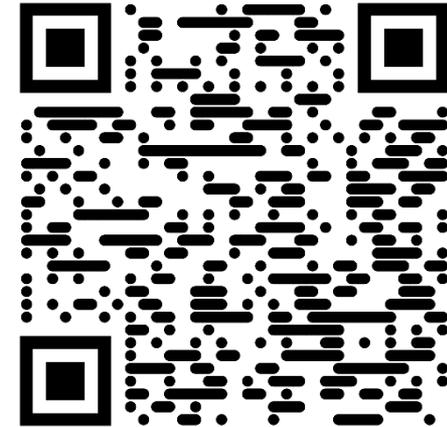


Geben Sie uns Ihr Feedback zur Veranstaltung!

Nutzen Sie dafür den QR-Code

Oder gehen Sie auf:

<https://deutscher-verein.teambits.events/join>



SYNTAGMA

*Psychology Mediation Coaching
Supervision Training*

Psychological Impact of Child Abduction and The Voice of the Child

ISS Conference Germany 10th – 12th of May, 2022

Birgitte M.J. Beelen

*Clinical Psychologist Child & Adolescent Psychologist Systemic Therapist /Supervisor
EMDR-Practitioner Europe Cross Border Mediator MfN Registered Family Mediator
Sensori Motor Psychotherapist Mindfulness and Compassion Trainer*



Children are our Future

<https://youtu.be/55476dCgSsw>



It's easier to build
strong children
than

to repair broken men

Frederick Douglass



Yaro

- French, 11 years old boy from mixed couple Tunesian / French
- Taken to Tunesia by his father at the age of 4 years
- For the mother to an unknown place
- Father met a Dutch woman in Tunesia
- Father and gilrfriend moved together to The Netherlands
- Father died at the age of the 6 years old Yaro
- Yaro stayed with the girlfriend after the father's death
- Biological mother “found” him in The Netherlands at the age of 11 years and requested the judge to relocate him to France
- To live with her again and with his little brother (from the same father (9 years old))
- Then I was asked to interfere and to help to make a decision....



Outline

- Introduction
- Yaro
- Stress and Anxiety
- Socio-emotional Development
- Risks and trauma; Consequences
- Children's Rights and Meaningful Participation of the Child
- Conclusions and Recommendations



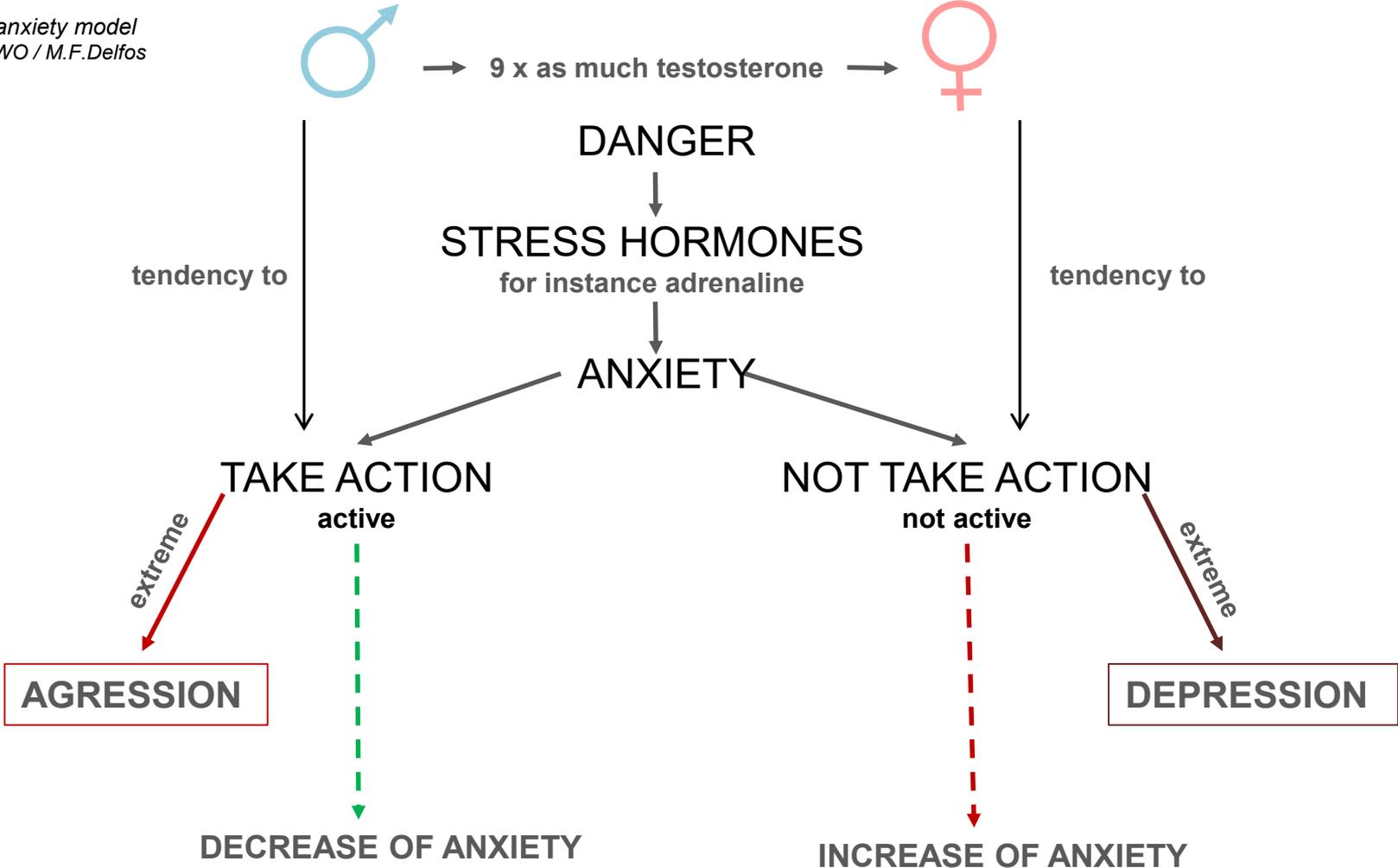
Stress and Anxiety

- Early brain and Child development
- Attachment

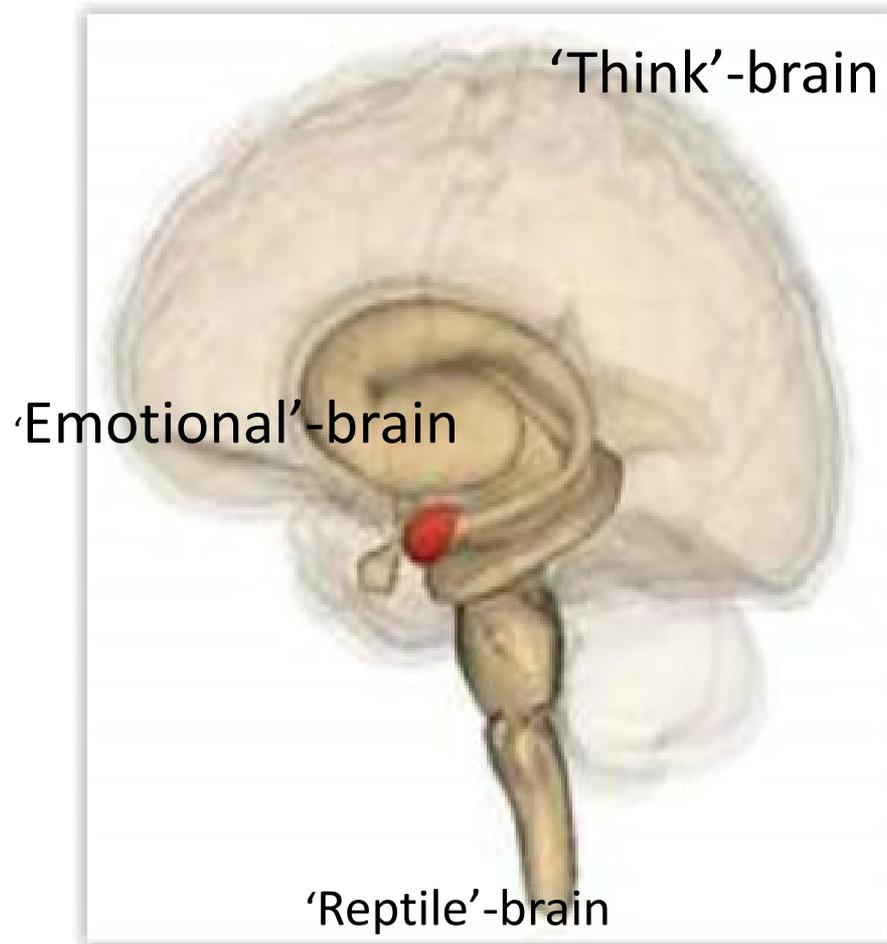


The Anxiety Model (M. F. Delfos)

The anxiety model
PICOWO / M.F.Delfos



Socio-emotional Development



Consequences of Trauma (1)

Pervasive Traumatic Experience (PTE)

- A pervasive influence on the development of the child
- Affects the general functioning of the child in more or less all developmental tasks:

Onset is in early childhood and continues in adulthood

Developmental Traumatic Disorder (DTD)

- The younger the child, the broader and more long lasting its effects
- Damaging the developmental task the child is in process of mastering



Consequences of Trauma (2)

Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)

- Frequent distressing recollections (flashbacks)
- Nightmares about the traumatic event
- Avoidance of reminders of it
- Exaggerated arousal in response to noises or other stimuli

- Occurs after/in a traumatic experience of being severely injured or threatened or seeing someone harmed or killed (f.i. soldiers) and rape, kidnap and torture victims



Abduction

Public Opinion: there's no risk or harm if the child is in the physical custody of one of his parents

The experience of abduction can be emotionally traumatic to both children and left-behind parents.

It's particularly damaging in cases in which force is used to carry out the abduction, the child is concealed, or the child is held for a long period of time.



Abduction & Separation

- More distress
- Hostile personal relationships
- Less financial and emotional support
- A worse view of their parents as role models
- Worse health
- Less satisfaction with life



Left-behind parents

- Psychological disturbance high during the period of missing and somewhat reduced once the child had been recovered
- Stress and trauma stayed after recovering the child
- Psychological distress higher after reunification than it had been prior to the abduction
- Anxiety / concerns that their child would be reabducted
- Devastating effect upon the economic wellbeing of the left-behind parent, which in turn can increase the parent's level of anxiety (searching, trying to recover)



Abducting Parents

- Relief
- Strenght

- The event of the return to the State of habitual residence;
 - Disbelief
 - Anger
 - Vulnerable and alone
 - Isolated and impoverished
 - Terrified
 - Loss of weight
 - Stress
 - Need for medical interventions



Abducted Children: Loss and Grief

Degree of trauma is related to

- The age of the child at the time of the abduction
- The treatment of the child by the abducting parent
- The abduction's duration
- The child's lifestyle during the abduction
- The length of separation from the left-behind parent has a great influence on the emotional impact on the abducted child
- The support and therapy received by the child after recovery

Symptoms (following recoveries from abductions):

- Emotionally suffering from the experience
- Grief and rage toward the left-behind parent in addition to “mental indoctrination” prepared by the abducting parent
- Emotional distress, such as anxiety, nightmares, mood swings, aggressive behaviour, guilt, distrust of authorities, fear of personal attachments, etc.



Developmental damage

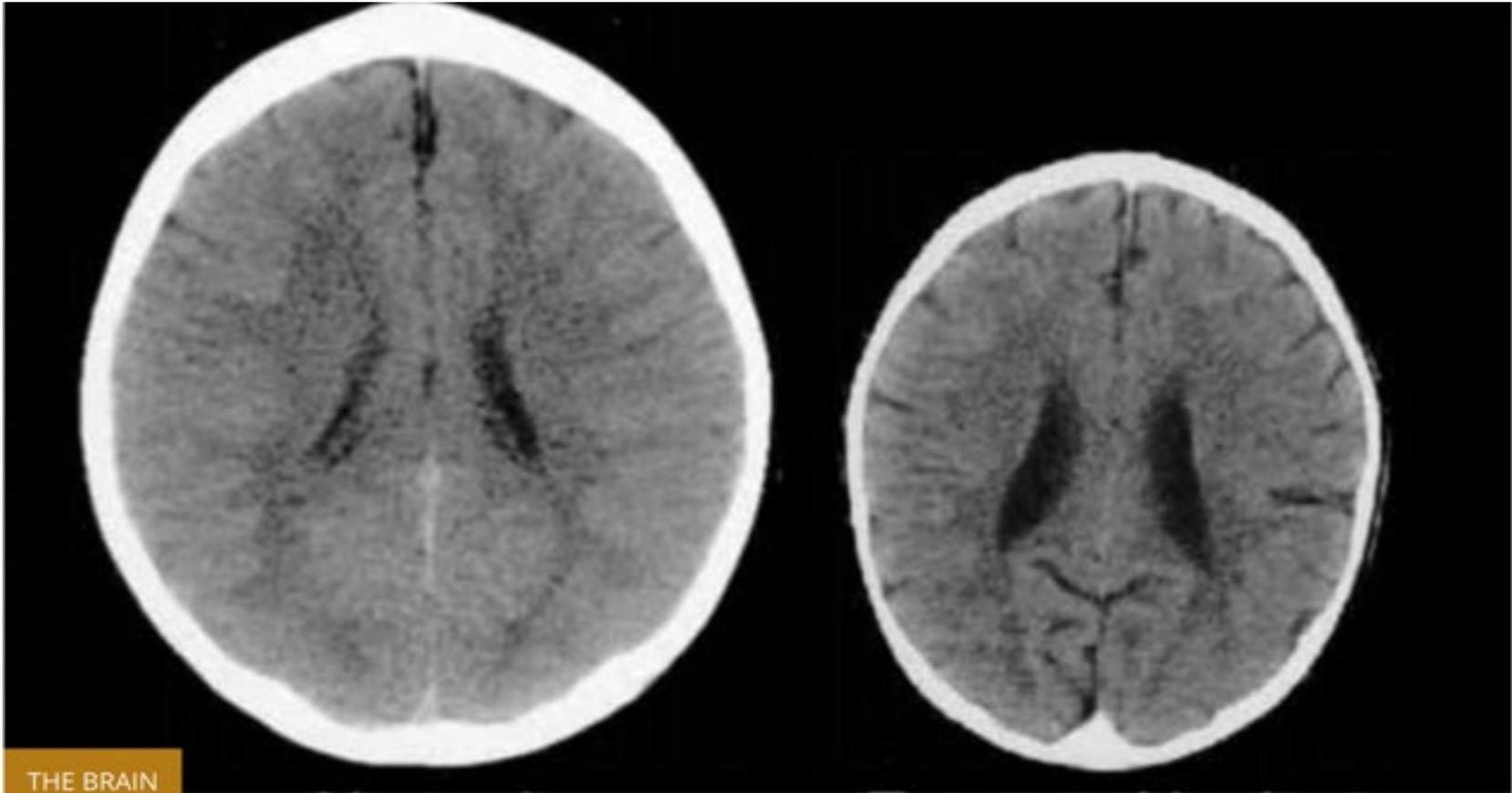
Different kinds of problems at different developmental stages & Adult symptomatology appears to be influenced by the developmental stage in which trauma occurred

Several mechanisms can be discussed when speaking about trauma:

- Traumatic sexualisation
- Betrayal
- Stigmatisation
- Powerlessness and/or preoccupation with control
- Negative self-evaluation
- Chronic perception of danger or injustice
- Dissociative control over awareness
- Impaired self-reference



Two different brains



THE BRAIN

THE CT SCAN ON THE LEFT IS AN IMAGE FROM A HEALTHY 3-YEAR-OLD WITH AN AVERAGE HEAD SIZE. THE IMAGE ON THE RIGHT IS FROM A 3-YEAR-OLD CHILD SUFFERING FROM SEVERE SENSORY-DEPRIVATION AND NEGLECT. VIA BRUCE D PERRY

ISS Germany Conference
Essen - May 2022

© B.M.J. Beelen All rights reserved, May 2022

SYNTAGMA



The Voice of the Child

Korczak (1979)

We know a lot that children do not know,
but
they know how they think and feel



The Voice of the Child (example)

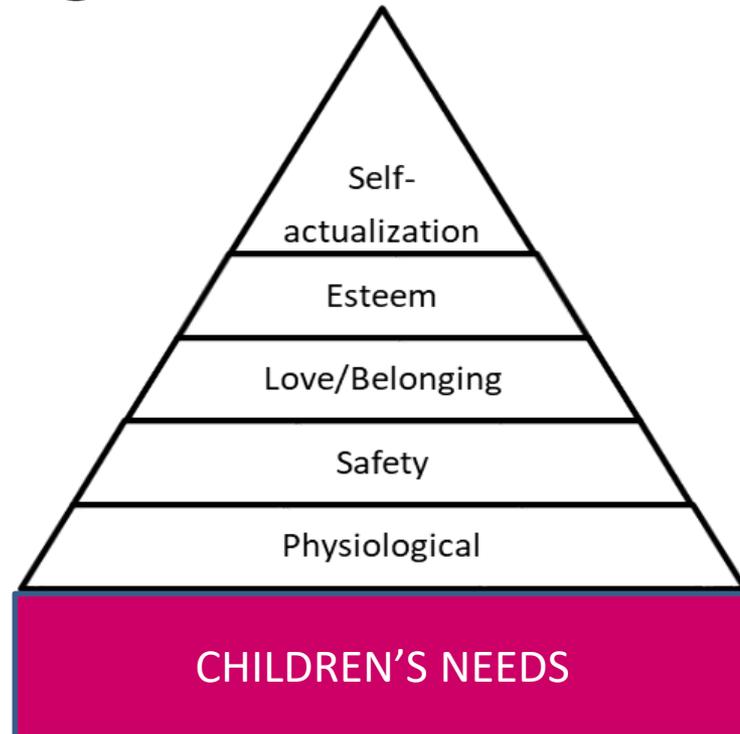
A boy showed a great craving for salt. He licked the salt off crackers. When he was three and one-half years old, he was placed in a children's hospital for medical treatment. There he was restricted to the routine diet. Seven days after admission, he died. A post-mortem examination revealed a tissue deficiency in the cortex of the adrenal glands. This caused his craving for salt. The boy had, through a 'wisdom of the body' kept himself alive for three and one-half year by eating large quantities of salt. It was the 'lack of wisdom' of the medical authorities that caused his premature death.

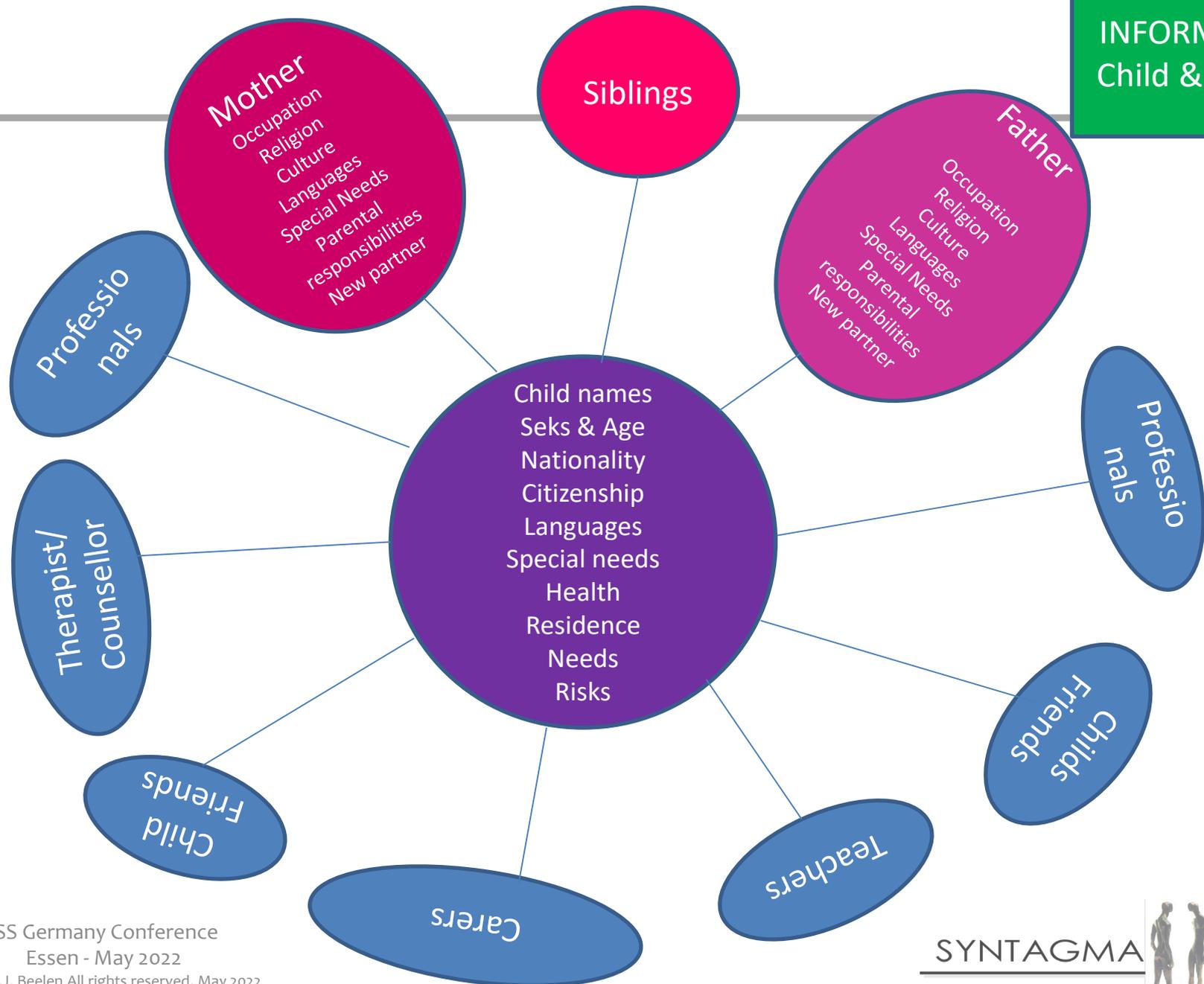
Wilkins (1940); Gray (1999)



Children's Rights

- Article 3 and 12 (Convention on the Rights of the Child)
- Children's Right or Children's Need
- Autonomy





Participation of the Child

- Consultative Participation
- Collaborative Participation
- Child-led participation
- Arguments against participation of Children



Basic Requirements for Child Participation

1. Transparent and informative
2. Voluntary
3. Respectful
4. Relevant
5. Facilitated with friendly environments and working methods
6. Inclusive
7. Supported by training
8. Safe and sensitive to risk
9. Accountable



Conclusion & Recommendations

- Developmental consequences
- The systems involved
- Attachment
- Participation of Children
- Training and support





Thank you for your attention

*It is the child, more than anyone else,
who will have to live with what adults decide!*

Birgitte M.J. Beelen
The Netherlands

beelen@syntagma-pmct.nl

www.syntagma-pmct.nl

+31(0)505352988



A short story about emotions

- [Alfred and Shadow](#)

