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Dr. Anna Kukuza,
Institute of Child and Adolescent Health
Protection, CF Early Intervention Institute,
Kharkiv, Ukraine

Early Childhood Intervention in Wartime: Parent and Professional Perspective





**782 days of russian
invasion in Ukraine**



**Despite the war,
families regularly
receive early
intervention
services**



AIM: to determine the dynamics of parents' needs and psychological characteristics of early childhood intervention specialists in a situation of war

METHOD:

- Two questionnaires (for parents and specialists) were created
- A study was conducted: May 2022, February – September 2023
- 122 ECI specialists and 80 families who received ECI took part in the study
- Data collection was conducted online
- Quantitative and qualitative analysis



Changes in the needs of parents who received ECI before and during the war

Before the war	During the war
Emotional difficulties in accepting the child's problems	Emotional challenges. Overcoming the crisis connected with the war
Daily routines	Renewal of habitual and establishing new routines
Social relationship	Preserving the existing and creating new networks of social relations
Financial difficulties and employment	Financial difficulties and employment related to forced displacement
Obtaining the early childhood intervention service	Understanding the child and his/her development in the context of traumatizing war events
	Establishment of informal relations between the specialist and parents. Mutual support



Needs of ECI specialists in the wartime

- **Communication with colleagues (91.8%)**
 - regular online meetings — seminars and trainings (81.6%),
 - discussion of cases (69.7%)
 - exchanging experience of working in the realities of war (74.19 %),
 - support (17.18 %).
- **Obtaining new knowledge** on supporting families and children in a wartime and **trauma and how to work with it (96.1%),**
- **Financial and material needs (53.9%),**
- **Need for emotional support and emotional burnout prevention (40.8%)**



Dynamics of psychological characteristics of ECI specialists 2022-2023, (n=122)

Characteristic	Positive dynamics %	Negative dynamics %
Level of energy and activity	70.5	17.6
Ability to regulate one's emotions	70.5	11.7
Satisfaction from everyday routines	52.9	17.6
Ability to take decisions	52.9	17.6
Satisfaction from communication with others	47	5.8
Sense of security	47	41.1
Sense of stability	47	29.4
Ability to concentrate one attention	47	35.2
Understanding the future	5.8	47



Dynamics of the perception of work processes by ECI specialists in 2022-2023

Characteristic	Positive dynamics %	Negative dynamics %
Level of awareness of how to work with families in a wartime	100	0
Ability to integrate new knowledge in one's daily practices	82.3	0
Ability to act creatively and generate new ideas	76.4	11.7
Interest in the work	64.7	17.6
Ability to plan and implement one's work	52.9	11.7
Satisfaction from communication with colleagues	52.9	5.8
Feeling of one's work efficiency	52.9	5.8
Satisfaction from work results	52.9	5.8
Satisfaction from work	41.1	23.5

CONCLUSIONS

- The experience of the war brought together parents and professionals and created a new context for forging partnerships and for mutual support.
- The dynamics of the needs of parents and professionals reflected changes in the social context, with the impact of war determining the specific needs of both groups
- The information, knowledge, and skills related to working with trauma that specialists received after the outbreak of military aggression positively influenced the adaptation of early intervention services to wartime conditions and played a significant role in stabilizing the well-being of specialists and their capability to deliver services that meet the needs of families in a war situation.



GRATITUDE



**SAVE!
SUPPORT!
DEVELOP!**

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- To all families who participated in the study
- To colleagues from Kharkiv, Odesa, Lviv, Zakarpattia, Donetsk, Luhansk regions for participating in data collection

