

TITRE / TITLE

Children who sexually abuse their siblings: a multigenerational family systems approach

THEME / THEMATIC

VOTRE PROPOSITION D'ATELIER / YOUR WORKSHOP PROJECT

Merci de sélectionner votre thématique parmi les choix suivants / Please select a topic among the different themes :

Travail avec les familles / Work with Families

AUTEURS / AUTHORS

Liste des auteurs / authors :

Alejandro Astorga

Affiliation

Corporacion OPCION, Chile

TEXTE / TEXT

Sexual abuse between siblings, particularly in the case of minors, is an emerging problem that represents a challenge for professionals, since both the individual who has harmed and the individual who has been harmed are not only children, but also children of the same family.

From a multigenerational systemic perspective, the abusive sexual behavior that a minor develops towards another minor can be understood as a symptom or relational manifestation of a historical emotional process. This workshop will present the main results of a research process (2023) developed by Corporación Opción in Chile on the issue of sexual abuse behaviors by children and adolescents, focusing on those situations in which such behaviors have occurred between siblings (SSA). In the last 5 years, Corporación Opción has assisted more than 1,200 children under 18 years of age who have presented behaviors of sexual abuse towards other children, of which 67% have been directed towards siblings.

The workshop will present the main clinical observations of the work in the area considering the period 2018 - 2023, will present a characterization of the families where abusive practices between siblings have been presented and will raise some key messages that guide the assessment process as well as intervention. Part of this experience has been collected in the recent publication "Children who have sexually abused other children: A human rights and systems thinking approach" (Astorga, 2023).