

COLLABORATING FAMILIES

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Collaborating Families Program

Adults who commit to share specific periods of time, such as weekends, holidays and/or vacations, with a child or adolescent who is residing in a protection center



The **Collaborating Families** resource is implemented only when a more stable family measure is not an option

- The Spanish Child Protection System gives priority to family measures (foster care or adoption) over residential ones.
- Despite this, there are still 16.177 children and adolescents in residential care in this country and 2.330 of them in the region of Andalusia (Ministry of Social Rights and 2030 Agenda, 2022).

Objectives of the Collaborating Families program

- Participation in **alternative activities** to those of the protection center.
- Environment where they can learn to relate and **live with a family**.
- Establishment of healthy **emotional bonds**.
- Expansion of their **social support network**.

The Collaborating Families study

- At present, it is still a **rather unknown** resource, both inside and outside Spain.
- Pioneer research → Need for empirical evidence.
- ❖ Between the **University of Seville** and the association **Crecer con Futuro**, with the collaboration and funding of the **Junta de Andalucía**.

❖ **Five consecutive projects:** [3284/0926](#), [3527/0926](#), [3803/0926](#), [4138/0926](#) y [4518/0926](#)

Principal Investigator: Esperanza León; **Research team:** León, E., Molano, N., Gallardo, A.I., Espinosa, E., Jiménez-Morago, J.M., Moreno, C. and Román, M.

First data collection

MAIN OBJECTIVE



Study the characteristics of the collaborating families, their functioning and dynamics, as well as the profile and evolution of the children and adolescents in collaboration, and the processes and intervention in this resource.

- 49 collaborating families with 53 minors (four families collaborated with two siblings) → 76.6% total active collaborating families in Seville.
- Families were visited, applying an extensive semi-structured interview and standardized questionnaires to assess:
 - ✓ Family context: Family cohesion and adaptability (*FACES-II*, Olson et al., 1982); Parental sense of competence (*PSOC*, Johnston & Mash, 1989); Parental stress (*SIPA*, Sheras et al., 1998).
 - ✓ Children and adolescents: Psychological adjustment (*SDQ*; Goodman, 1997) and Symptomatology of attachment disorders (*RPQ*; Minnis et al., 2002).



METHOD

Results

1. Sociodemographic profile

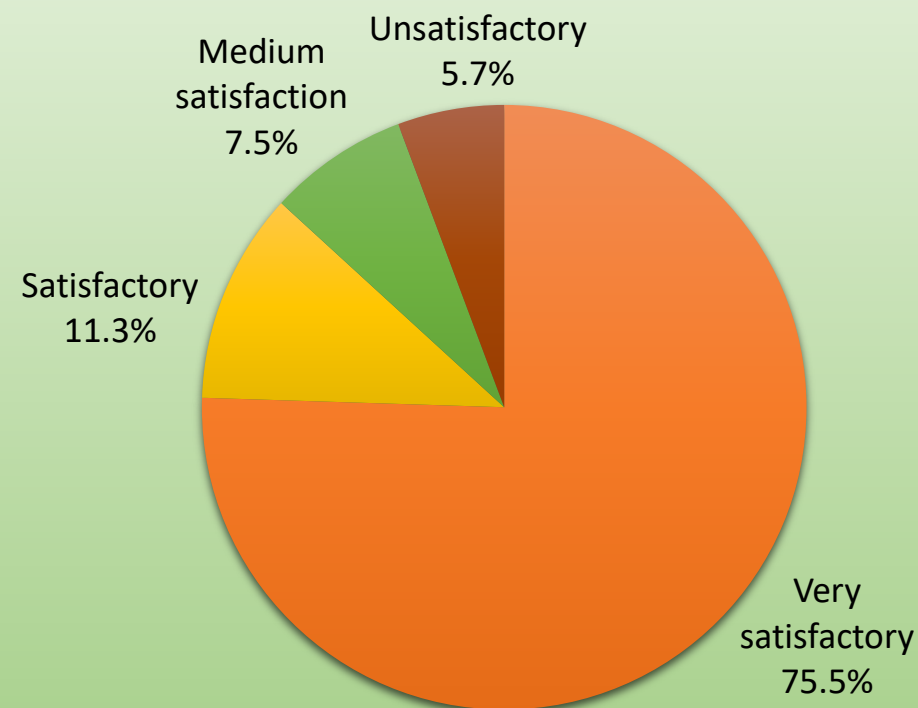
Collaborating Families:

- Average age: 45 years old (min. 25 - max. 69)
- Predominantly higher education or university level (65%)
- 84% had children (53% two or more)
- Mostly biparental families (78%)

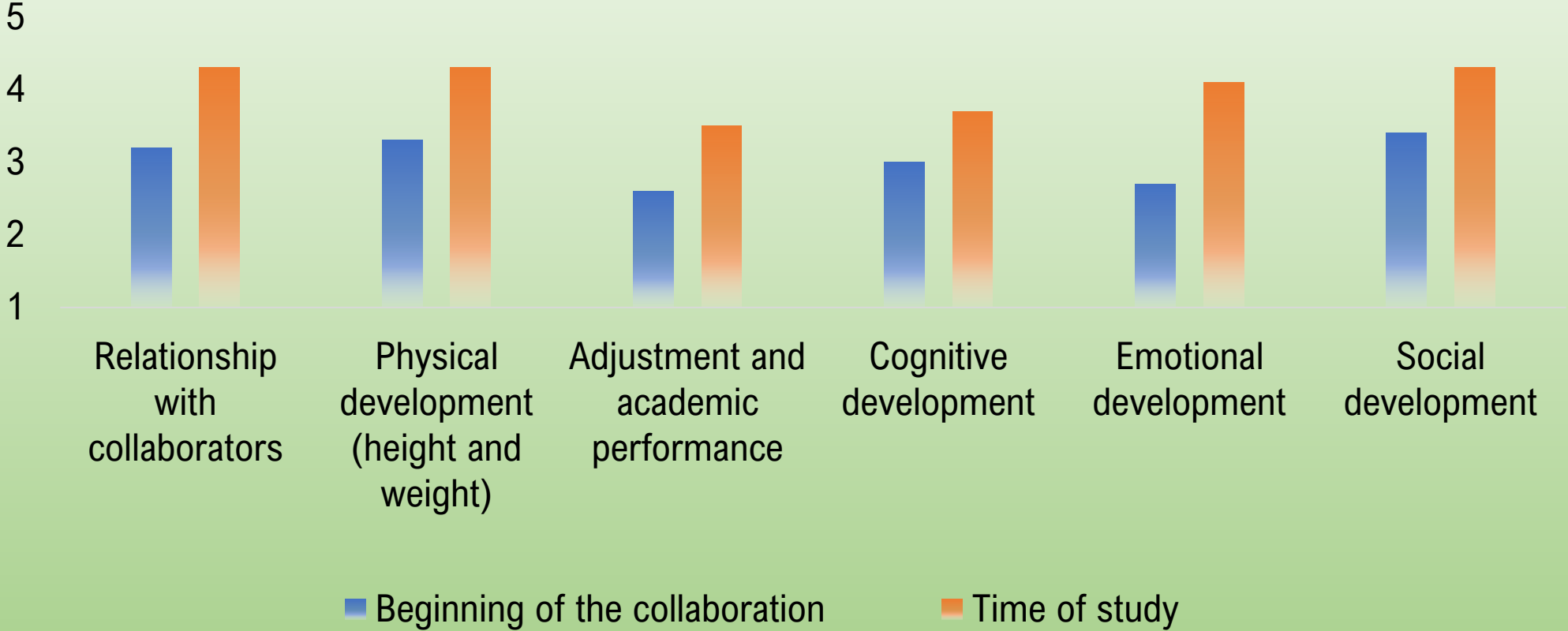
Children and adolescents in collaboration:

- 14 years old on average (min. 6 - max. 17 and a half)
- Homogeneity with respect to gender (53% girls and 47% boys)
- 32% with a disability (75% mental and 55% severe)
- Average of 8 years and 2 months ($SD = 3.6$) in residential care
- Average of 3.8 years in family collaboration ($SD = 3.5$)

2. Overall satisfaction of families with the collaboration



3. Evolution of children and adolescents during the collaboration according to their collaborating families



Statistically significant contrasts for related samples ($p < .05$)

Second data collection

MAIN OBJECTIVE



To broaden the analysis of family collaboration from the point of view of the children and adolescents themselves, and from the point of view of their reference residential caregivers in the protection centers.

Children and adolesc. with CF
(N= 43)

Between 6 and 17 years old, in residential care and with CF

Comparison Group without CF
(N= 43)

In residential care, with similar characteristics, but without CF

Residential caregivers of children and adolesc. with CF
(N = 51)

Residential caregivers of children and adolesc. of the CG
(N = 42)



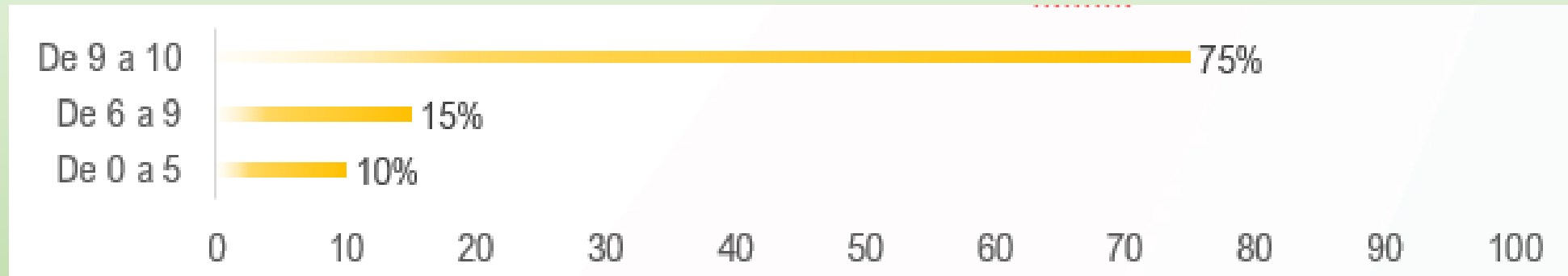
METHOD

- Visits to protection centers, using semi-structured interviews and many assessment instruments to study the children and adolescents, the residential caregivers and the institutional context.

Results

4. Relationship with the collaborating family

Mean score *Cantril-ladder* (*Cantril Self-Anchoring Striving Scale, Cantril-ladder; Cantril, 1965*) (range 0-10) = **8.94** (*SD* = 1.83)



5. Social support of the collaborating family (average scores)

- "I share with them my sorrows and joys" *Multidimensional Scale of Perceived Social Support (MSPSS; Zimet et al., 1988)* (range 1-7) = **6.29** (*SD* = 1.41)
- "I feel that they accept me as I am" *HBSC Questionnaire (Health Behaviour in School-Aged Children, España/Spain; Moreno et al., 2017)* (range 1-5) = **4.80** (*SD* = .47)
- "I feel that they care about me as a person" *HBSC Questionnaire (Health Behaviour in School-Aged Children, España/Spain; Moreno et al., 2017)* (range 1-5) = **4.80** (*SD* = .47)

Publications

Available on the website of *Crecer con Futuro*:
<https://crecerconfuturo.org/investigacion-sobre-familias-colaboradoras/>

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Colegio Oficial de Psicología de Andalucía Occidental,
Universidad de Cádiz, Universidad de Córdoba,
Universidad de Huelva, Universidad de Sevilla

Familias Colaboradoras: un nuevo recurso del sistema de protección a menores en Andalucía

Anuario de **Psicología**
The UB Journal of Psychology | 53/1
UNIVERSITAT DE BARCELONA

Habilidades sociales en niños, niñas y adolescentes tutelados con familias colaboradoras: relación con el apoyo social percibido y la satisfacción vital

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Palabras clave
Habilidades sociales; Familias Colaboradoras; apoyo social percibido; satisfacción vital; acogimiento residencial.

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Elizabeth

CARACTERÍSTICAS Y EVOLUCIÓN DE CHICOS Y CHICAS CON FAMILIAS COLABORADORAS Y RELACIONES Y CONTACTOS CON SUS FAMILIAS DE ORIGEN: Informe descriptivo, comparativo y multi-informante

Elizabeth Espinosa, Nuria Molano y Esperanza León

Universidad de Sevilla

Crececon

CRECER CON FUTURO
Comparar para cuidar la infancia

CONCILIACIÓN

Observatorio de la Infancia en Andalucía

Nuria Molano Mérida
Esperanza León Manso
Luna Castro Romero

FAMILIA COLABORADORA

Protocolo
Programa de familias colaboradoras

UNA OPORTUNIDAD PARA EL MENOR Y ADOLESCENTE
GUÍA ESTATAL SOBRE

Junta de Andalucía
Consejería de Igualdad, Políticas Sociales y Conciliación

Conclusions

- The image of the Collaborating Families resource that emerges from the results of this study corresponds to a positive and well-functioning practice, although it is not free of tensions and difficulties.
- Some of the needs detected and reported have already contributed to important social transfers:
 - Family collaboration is included for the first time in the new Andalusian law (**Law 4/2021, of Childhood and Adolescence of Andalusia**), in its article 110 on **Social Collaboration**.