On describing the residential care process: social interactions between care workers and children according to the Structural Analysis of Social Behavior (SASB) model

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Citation for published version (APA):
van den Berg, G. (2000). On describing the residential care process: social interactions between care workers and children according to the Structural Analysis of Social Behavior (SASB) model
Curriculum Vitae

Germie van den Berg was born on November 25, 1966, in Geleen, The Netherlands. She grew up in Weert (province of Limburg), where she finished high school in 1985. From 1985 to 1991 she studied Health Science at the University of Maastricht, and graduated as a mental health scientist. For one year she worked as a research assistant at the Department of Differential and Experimental Psychopathology, at the Department of Medical Psychology, and at the Department of Social Psychiatry of the University of Maastricht. Her main tasks were to provide exposure treatment to spider phobics, to carry out structured diagnostic interviews, and to administer questionnaires to persons with mental health problems, participating in a study on the amount of social support they experienced from significant other persons in their lives.

September 1991 she started as a Ph.D. student at the Department of University of Amsterdam, in order to conduct the research project presented in this thesis. In this study, which was carried out in collaboration with the residential orthopedagogical treatment center for children called the Widdonck, social interactions between care workers and children are described according to the Structural Analysis of Social Behavior (SASB).

Since June 1996 she combined working on her thesis with a job at the Center for Professional and Vocational Training Affairs (Centrum voor Beroeps- en Opleidings-vraagstukken / CBO) of the Netherlands Institution of Care and Welfare (Nederlands Instituut voor Zorg en Welzijn / NIZW). In general she is involved with projects aimed at improving the connection between vocational education and the labour market in the field of care and welfare. In particular she is carrying out various research projects aimed at determining and describing developments and trends in the professional practice of social workers, with the purpose of improving the quality of the profession of social workers. In addition, she contributes to the development of an adequate profile of sport professionals (e.g., trainer, coach, sport community worker, and sport instructor). This implies preparing an outline of all occupational activities, describing the tasks that belong to the profession, and describing all qualifications that enables the professional to carry out those tasks.

Besides her work at the NIZW / CBO she recently started working on a new SASB project. She is participating in the so-called ‘Dutch SASB Group’, together with psychiatrist Leo van Dijk, Ph.D.; Professor Paul Hodiamont, Ph.D.; and professor Guus van Heck, Ph.D. In consultation with Professor Lorna Benjamin, Ph.D., who developed the SASB model, they translated the SASB questionnaires into Dutch. Studies in order to validate this translation are about to be carried out.
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