



**HAL**  
open science

## Quality Improvement Process in Childcare Facilities: Results of a Qualitative Study

C. Decroix, A. Essilini, M. I. D. Fresney, N. Casso-Vicarini, Sylvana Cote,  
Francois Alla

► **To cite this version:**

C. Decroix, A. Essilini, M. I. D. Fresney, N. Casso-Vicarini, Sylvana Cote, et al.. Quality Improvement Process in Childcare Facilities: Results of a Qualitative Study. 16th European Public Health Conference 2023 Our Food, Our Health, Our Earth: A Sustainable Future for Humanity, Nov 2023, Dublin, Ireland. 10.1093/eurpub/ckad160.835 . hal-04577246

**HAL Id: hal-04577246**

**<https://hal.science/hal-04577246>**

Submitted on 16 May 2024

**HAL** is a multi-disciplinary open access archive for the deposit and dissemination of scientific research documents, whether they are published or not. The documents may come from teaching and research institutions in France or abroad, or from public or private research centers.

L'archive ouverte pluridisciplinaire **HAL**, est destinée au dépôt et à la diffusion de documents scientifiques de niveau recherche, publiés ou non, émanant des établissements d'enseignement et de recherche français ou étrangers, des laboratoires publics ou privés.

**Abstract citation ID: ckad160.835**  
**Quality Improvement Process in Childcare Facilities:  
Results of a Qualitative Study**

**Charlotte Decroix**

*C Decroix<sup>1</sup>, A Essilini<sup>1,2</sup>, MI Duboys Fresney<sup>3</sup>, N Casso-Vicarini<sup>3</sup>,  
SM Côté<sup>4,5</sup>, F Alla<sup>1,2</sup>*

<sup>1</sup>Bordeaux Population Health Research Center, University of Bordeaux, Bordeaux, France

<sup>2</sup>Prevention Department, University Hospital of Bordeaux, Bordeaux, France

<sup>3</sup>Association, Ensemble Pour l'Éducation de la Petite Enfance, Boullongne-Billancourt, France

<sup>4</sup>School of Public Health, University of Montreal, Montréal, France

<sup>5</sup>Axis Head Deputy, Brain and Child Development, University Hospital of Sainte-Justine, Montréal, Canada

Contact: charlotte.decroix@u-bordeaux.fr

**Introduction:**

Access to quality educational facilities is a major determinant of children's well-being and a means to tackle social health inequalities. In France, 'Accompagne-moi...!' (AM) intervention, tested in a pilot study, was adapted from evidence-based interventions developed in Quebec. The objective of AM was to improve professional practices allowing children to develop their social and emotional skills. This research aimed to assess viable validity of AM. Viable validity "refers to stakeholders' views and experience regarding whether an intervention program is practical, affordable, suitable, evaluable and helpful in the real-world" (Chen, 2010).

**Methods:**

A qualitative study was realised in 13 childcare facilities from 4 French deprived areas (2019-22). Eight exploratory interviews, 33 semi-structured interviews with professionals were conducted. A comprehensive thematic analysis was performed.

**Results:**

Childcare facilities were systems characterised by involved professionals evolving in difficult working conditions amplified in times of health crisis. The interviews showed the potential of the approach to address needs (e.g. professional training, increased awareness of children's emotions) and perceived positive effects (e.g. support for management in implementing change in the facilities, perceived effects on children). Professionals expressed a negative experience of AM (e.g. sense of failure, insufficient appropriation of the approach by the group) linked to the challenges of deploying an intervention in highly stressed environments.

**Conclusions:**

This study highlights: i) potential of AM, ii) that children's well-being cannot be separated from the professional's well-

being, iii) influence of certain structural determinants on educational practices and the quality of childcare facilities, iv) need to address these structural determinants prior to the intervention implementation. Prior to the deployment of AM on a larger scale, adaptations were proposed.

**Key messages:**

- The well-being of children and professionals in childcare facilities are interdependent.
- Structural determinants are key determinants of the quality of childcare facilities.