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Placing children and young people outside their homes in Denmark – new approaches?

The amount of children and young people in care in Denmark has been constant for more than 100 years – around 1 % of all children aged 0-17 years. Most of the Danish children and young people have until 2000th been placed in residential care centers. With changes in the Danish legislation in 2006, it became possible to place children in their own families or network and from 2011, the state added one more professional type of foster families – named as municipality foster families. Despite of this most of the children and young people are still placed in so-called ordinary foster families – in total 51.4 % of all children and young people in care.

Can we talk about new approaches in the Danish social policy concerning placements of children and young people? How is the situation in Denmark compared with other countries? How can you describe the consequences for children and young people in care?

Professor Inge M. Bryderup is a sociologist and for many years, she has been a researcher of Danish social policy and social education in relation to vulnerable children and young people and their families. Inge Bryderup is a professor at Aalborg University, where she is a researcher and teacher. In addition, she is a lecturer and she is affiliated with several international networks i.a. as a member of the Board of the European Social Work Research Association and part of the editorial team of the journal “Nordic Social Work Research”.