

ERASMUS+ PROJECT

Synergistic education of parents with children with special needs-SynergyEd

PARENT'S EVALUATION OF TRAINING CURRICULUM

The SynergyEd project aimed to educate and empower parents and caregivers of children with special needs through a comprehensive educational curriculum. The evaluation of it employed a mixed-methods approach, including surveys and interviews, to assess the curriculum's educational value, relevance, and applicability. We included 14 parents from Croatia, North Macedonia, and Serbia, with a diverse representation of developmental conditions such as autism, cerebral palsy, and Down syndrome, to evaluate training curriculum in order to improve it.

Key Findings:

Participant Feedback on Curriculum Chapters:

The majority of participants found the chapters to be highly useful, engaging, and easy to understand, with some minor differences in feedback across topics. Subjects like managing challenging behaviors, emotional regulation, and stress management were highlighted as especially relevant. However, chapters covering topics like cerebral palsy and pain management received comparatively lower ratings, suggesting areas that could benefit from further enhancement.

Identified Gaps and Suggested Improvements:

Participants expressed interest in additional topics, including planning for the care of children with special needs after caregivers' lifetimes, understanding legal rights, rare disorders, and alternative communication methods. They also emphasized the need for a more consistent writing style and the inclusion of more practical examples as key areas for improvement.

In conclusion, participant feedback on the curriculum chapters has provided valuable insights for future improvements. The overall positive reception indicates that the curriculum is meeting many of the participants' needs, particularly in areas like managing challenging behaviors and emotional regulation, which were seen as highly relevant and beneficial. Incorporating this feedback allows future versions of the curriculum to better support parents of children with special needs, equipping them with the tools, knowledge, and confidence to handle their unique challenges. This ongoing refinement helps to create a more engaging, practical, and supportive resource that truly meets the needs of its audience.

Participants' scores (14 parents of children with special needs) on whether each chapter was useful, whether it was interesting, whether they learned something new from that chapter and whether it was understandable for the lay audience

(data expressed as median and range)

Chapter no.	Useful	Interesting	Learned something new	Understandable
Chapter 1: Defining and terminological aspects of disability	7 (2 to 8)	7 (2 to 10)	5 (2 to 10)	9 (3 to 10)
Chapter 2: Alternative medicine will not help your child	7.5 (2 to 10)	7.5 (2 to 10)	5 (2 to 10)	8.5 (6 to 10)
Chapter 3: Parents of children with developmental disabilities are particularly vulnerable to quacks and false therapies	6 (2 to 10)	7.5 (2 to 10)	7 (2 to 10)	7.5 (7 to 10)
Chapter 4: How to protect yourself from alternative medicine fraud	6 (2 to 10)	6.5 (2 to 10)	7 (2 to 10)	8 (5 to 10)
Chapter 5: Evidence-based medicine	7.5 (4 to 10)	7.5 (3 to 10)	7 (3 to 10)	8 (6 to 10)
Chapter 6: Characteristics of developmental difficulties/disabilities	7 (3 to 10)	8 (4 to 10)	6.5 (3 to 10)	8 (6 to 10)
Chapter 7: Characteristics of intellectual disabilities	5 (1 to 10)	8 (2 to 10)	7 (2 to 10)	8 (6 to 10)
Chapter 8: Characteristics of cognitive disabilities	7 (2 to 10)	8 (3 to 10)	7 (1 to 10)	8 (6 to 10)
Chapter 9: Characteristics of children with neurological disorders	5 (1 to 9)	6.5 (3 to 10)	6.5 (1 to 10)	8 (6 to 10)
Chapter 10: Characteristics of	1 (1 to 10)	6 (4 to 10)	6.5 (4 to 10)	8.5 (5 to 10)

children with cerebral palsy				
Chapter 11: Characteristics of physical disabilities in children	5 (1 to 8)	7 (5 to 10)	5 (3 to 10)	7 (5 to 10)
Chapter 12: Sexual and reproductive health among persons with disabilities	5 (1 to 9)	8 (3 to 10)	5.5 (1 to 10)	8 (6 to 10)
Chapter 13: Associated diseases (comorbidities) in children with developmental disabilities	5.5 (1 to 9)	6.5 (4 to 10)	6 (1 to 10)	8.5 (6 to 10)
Chapter 14: Characteristics of sensory processing issues in children with developmental difficulties	5 (2 to 8)	7 (4 to 10)	7 (1 to 10)	8 (5 to 10)
Chapter 15: Pain and pain measurement in children with developmental disabilities	4.5 (1 to 9)	7 (2 to 10)	5 (1 to 10)	8 (6 to 10)
Chapter 16: Treatment of pain in children with developmental disabilities	5 (1 to 9)	6 (2 to 10)	5.5. (1 to 10)	7.5 (6 to 10)
Chapter 17: Management of challenging behaviors	5 (1 to 8)	7 (4 to 10)	6 (1 to 10)	8 (6 to 10)
Chapter 18: Emotional regulation in children with developmental difficulties	5 (3 to 8)	5 (3 to 10)	5 (1 to 10)	8 (5 to 10)
Chapter 19: Bullying management	6 (1 to 9)	8.5 (3 to 10)	6.5 (1 to 10)	9 (6 to 10)
Chapter 20: Physical activity of children with developmental disabilities	7.5 (3 to 9)	7 (3 to 10)	6 (1 to 10)	8 (5 to 10)
Chapter 21: Nutrition for children with	7.5 (1 to 10)	8 (5 to 10)	6.5 (1 to 10)	8.5 (7 to 10)

developmental disabilities				
Chapter 22: Abuse of children with developmental disabilities	5 (1 to 9)	7 (5 to 10)	7 (1 to 10)	9 (7 to 10)
Chapter 23: Stress management in families of children with developmental difficulties	8 (3 to 10)	8 (3 to 10)	7 (1 to 10)	8 (6 to 10)
Chapter 24: Interventions to support parents of children with developmental disabilities	7 (2 to 10)	6 (3 to 10)	5 (1 to 10)	8 (5 to 10)