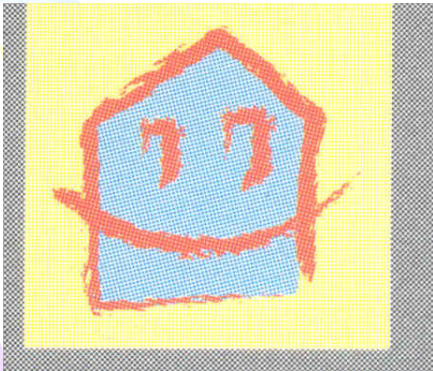




**International Network Conference on Foster Care Research in Graz**



**The development of foster care in Serbia**



*Mr Dobrila Grujić*

**Foster Care in Serbia – over 80 years long tradition.**

**In the long term development – the rise of foster care.**

**During the 1990s – stagnation and decline  
in use of foster care –  
Strengthening of institutional protection**

**The reform of social protection - since 2002.  
Focus on reforming the child protection system.**

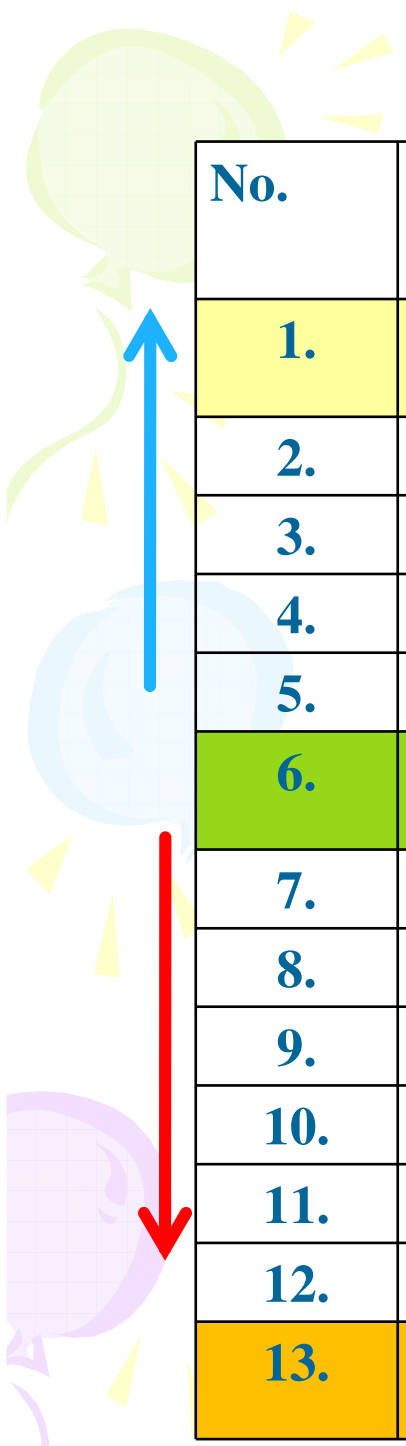
**It takes place within the project  
“The strategy of development of foster care in Serbia”. It is still ongoing.**

**Today we believe that change is possible and that better conditions for  
Children in foster care are achievable.**

**-but, it takes a lot of organized, synchronized work  
and professional commitment**



## Data on the development of foster care



No.	Year	Number of foster families	Number of children in foster care
1.	1998	1854	2178
2.	1999	1707	2078
3.	2000	1606	2066
4.	2001	1338	2017
5.	2002	1268	2001
6.	2003	1191	1795
7.	2004	1419	2087
8.	2005	2026	2923
9.	2006	2032	2982
10.	2007	2731	3844
11.	2008	3119	4003
12.	2009	3300	4200
13.	2010	3700	5180



## CONDITIONS BEFORE THE REFORM

Researches in 2000. (B. Kuzmanović and associates; and D. Grujić) :


-Undeveloped network of foster families – **several locations** in Serbia (rural) – the continuation of children's colonies from 1929.



-Foster parents with low educational status, unemployed, **with no special training** for foster care;

- undeveloped different forms of foster care – children with disabilities are placed in institutions together with healthy children - **all remain in institutions for long period of time;**





- Children are not prepared for accommodation (**50% of adults in foster care** **изјављује** **declares that reasons for accommodation remain unknown**), contact between children and foster parents before the placement of a child is almost non-existent



- no organized monitoring and supporting foster families

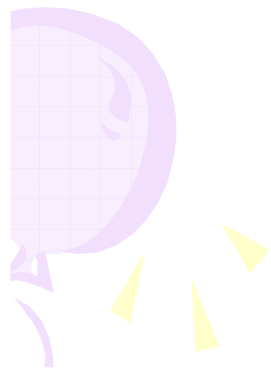
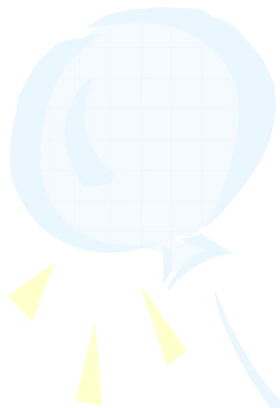
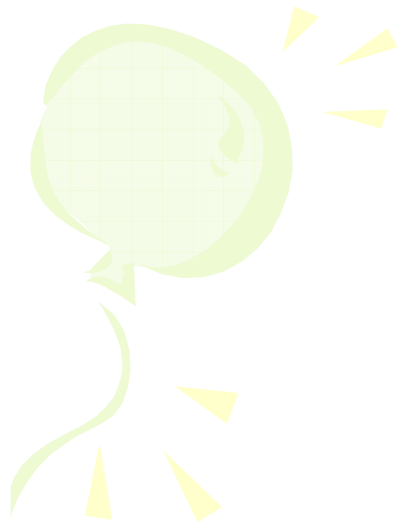
- there are **NO** written standards for foster care;

- financing problems – foster parents for 7 months do not receive any compensation .....





**Inefficient system, often,  
Instead of protecting the child,  
Introduces him/her to new traumatic  
experiences**



## REFORM BEGINS - in 2004.

Како да постанем  
хранител?

- **TRAINING OF PROFESSIONALS** for new approaches regarding child protection – **around 900 seminar participants** – during 4 days of seminar duration

- Preparation of **NATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAM** for foster care – “*Safe step to foster care*” – **around 1600 new foster families were trained in 2004.**

Preparation and conduction of **NATIONAL CAMPAIGN FOR FOSTER CARE** – intensive campaign which lasted for 4 months and it was simultaneously held in different cities  
- **around 2.000 new foster families applied in 2004.**





-The structure of foster families has changed

New foster families are:

- younger,
- more educated,
- employed,
- more live in urban areas.



- The **competence** of foster families and professionalas has increased




**-Procedures for foster families evaluation have been improved**



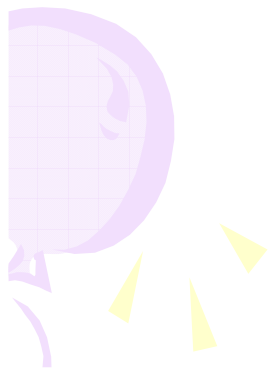


**THE NETWORK OF foster families is DEVELOPED in every part of Serbia**

**The number of children within institutions has decreased**



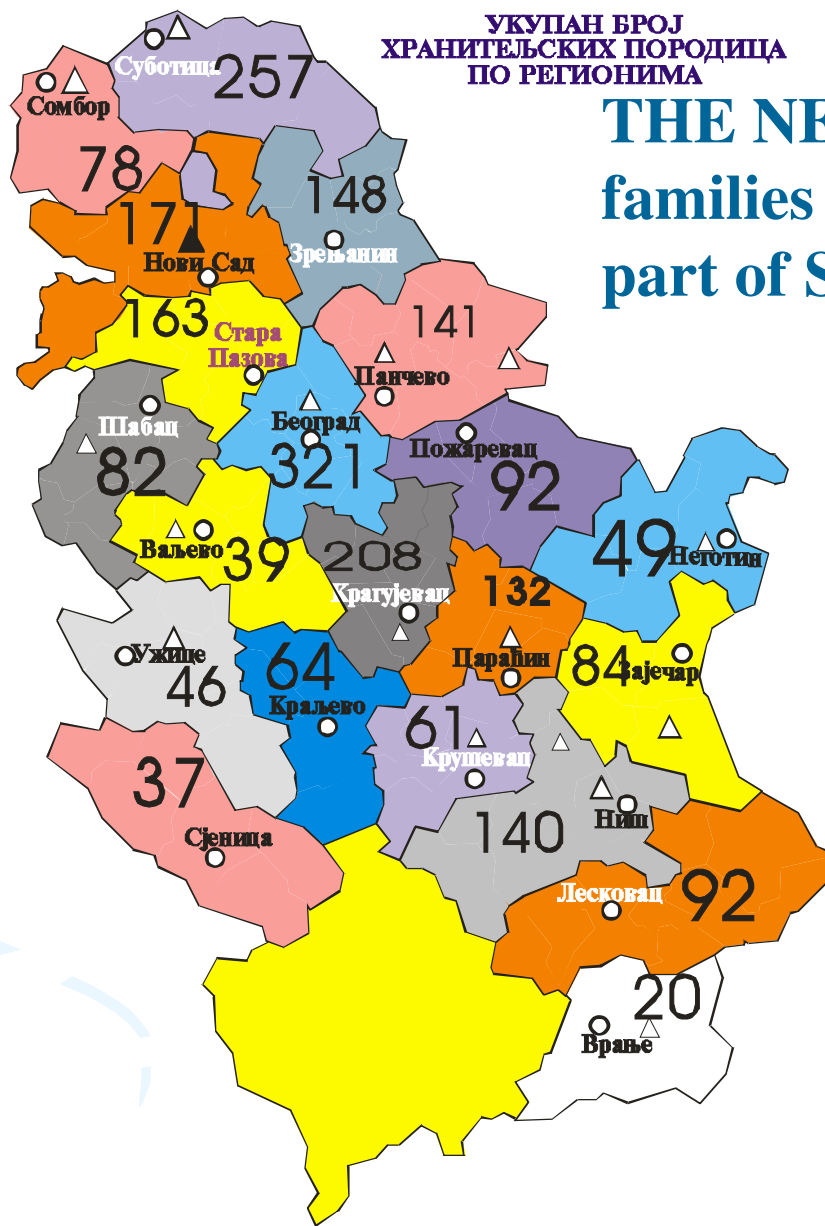
**-In 2004. more than 300 CHILDREN WERE MOVED from INSTITUTIONS**



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УКУПАН БРОЈ  
ХРАНИТЕЉСКИХ ПОРОДИЦА  
ПО РЕГИОНИМА

THE NETWORK OF foster families is DEVELOPED in every part of Serbia




- △ Домови за децу без родитељског старања
- Центри регионалних тимова




**The following was established:**

- Family Law (in 2005.),**
- Regulations on foster care (in 2008.)**
- Social security Law in 2010.**



Within these Laws and Regulations foster care is regulated in Accordance with contemporary standards and standards for child Protection in foster care are established.

- In 2008. – Foster Care Centre Belgrade is established**  
as a result of reforms in foster care in Serbia.
  - In 2011. – another 3 regional Centers have been established,**
  - It is planned to establish three more Centers for family accomodation**
- 

<b>Number of children in family</b>	<b>Financial compensation for child support and work of foster parents in Euros €</b>			
	<b>Child with no disabilities</b>	<b>Child with mild form of retardation</b>	<b>Child with moderate form of retardation</b>	<b>Child with combined disabilities</b>
<b>Pre-school child</b>				
<b>one</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>365</b>	<b>405</b>	<b>425</b>
<b>two</b>	<b>554</b>	<b>634</b>	<b>714</b>	<b>754</b>
<b>three</b>	<b>831</b>			
<b>School child</b>				
<b>one</b>	<b>354</b>	<b>394</b>	<b>434</b>	<b>454</b>
<b>two</b>	<b>612</b>	<b>692</b>	<b>772</b>	<b>812</b>
<b>three</b>	<b>919</b>			

**\*Average earnings 346 €**

## **ADDITIONAL CHILDREN'S RIGHTS**

1. School transport – 30-43 € per month
2. Excursions and field trips – cost price
3. Textbooks – average cost price
4. Celebration of graduation or degree – around 110 €
5. Equipment for child accommodation – 100 – 200 €
6. Compensation to young person after leaving the accommodation  
- 250 € per month during the period up to 2 years
7. Scholarships for excellent students – 70 € per month

### **Other rights of foster parents**

1. Contributions for pension and disability insurance
2. Contribution for health insurance
3. Incentives for electricity, utilities and land

## **2009. and further**

### **Focus on establishing quality system of child protection in foster care**

- 1. Strengthening the competencies of employees – development of Educational program - accreditation;**
- 2. Strengthening the competencies of foster parents – educational Packages; intensive monitoring and various forms of support;**
- 3. Empowering children – different forms of working with children and Support in cooperation with other systems (educational, health...)**
- 4. Placement of children with disabilities – development of different forms of foster care;**

# Strengthening Capacity OF FOSTER CARE CENTRE BELGRADE



Center for family accommodation has received significant amount of support for its activities and improving the quality of its work. The support was received from

**UNICEF**



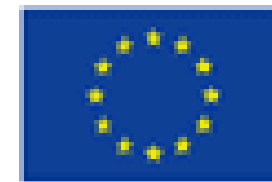
**Deci je mesto u porodici**  
"Transformacija rezidencijalnih ustanova  
za decu i razvijanje održivih alternativa"

**SAVE THE CHILDREN**



**Save the Children**

**EUROPEAN UNION**



# Strengthening Capacity OF FOSTER CARE CENTRE BELGRADE



**TRAINING OF EMPLOYEES IN CENTER FOR FAMILY ACCOMMODATION  
– BRITISH AGENCY FOR FOSTER CARE BAAF**

**20 working days of training for professionals from CFA**



# “PLANNING OF CHILDREN PROTECTION”

## Outcome:

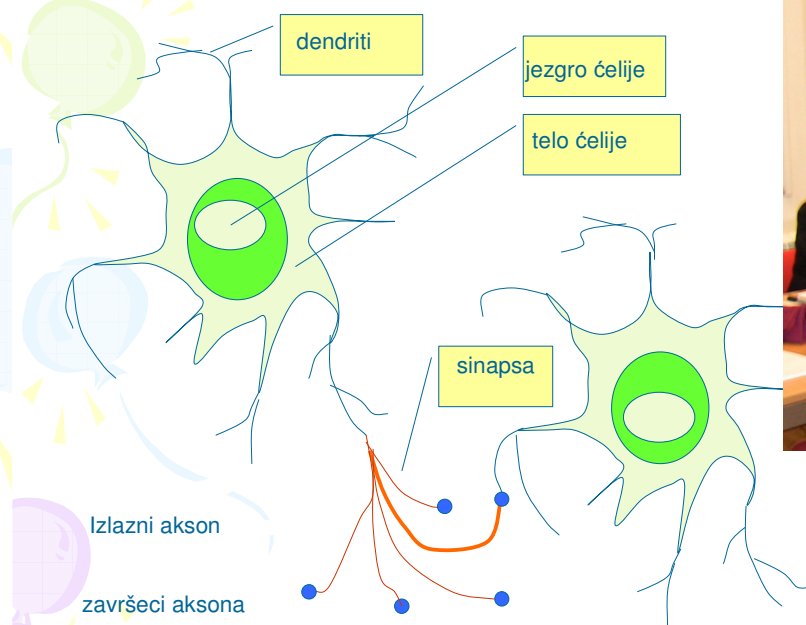
**Skills for needs assessment and planning of child protections were acquired**

Counselors for foster care were trained for practical application of knowledge and for developing protection plans  
Which will provide positive changes in the protection  
Of children in foster care



*trainer Moira King  
Great Britain*

## Attachment, bonding forms and neurological brain development



Fren Mofet и Andy Sayers

**The effect:** new knowledge and **awareness of importance for children to grow up in a family** – change of practice

## Assessing the needs of children with disabilities



*Kris Kristofides  
i Fren Mofet*

### The effects:

New knowledge was gained, **encouragement** and willingness for **Further developing of foster care for children with developmental Difficulties in Serbia**

# Stirring changes with children

## ABC ANALYSIS

Antecedent »»»»»»»» (Behaviour) «««««««« (Consequence)

## OUTCOME

New knowledge regarding the application of **new working technique** in order to make changes for the children in foster care



*Džuli Kuk i Kolin Bent*

## FOSTER CARE CENTRE - BELGRADE

Becomes the leading force behind the development of foster care in Serbia



- Author and implementer for training programs for professionals from 156 cities in Serbia, all of them work in the field of foster care
- Provides training for foster parents and prepares them for specialized foster care

# Strengthening competencies of professionals

- Training of professionals for implementing training program **for future foster parents „Safe step to foster care”**
- Training of professionals for implementation of Informant about a child **”My Life Path”**;
- Training of professionals for implementation of new standards;
- Training of professionals in order to work as **counselors and Supervisors in** Center for family accommodation;

## Programs for development of specialized foster care

-Training of professionals and foster parents in order to accept children with

**Down's syndrom;**

– Training of professionals and foster parents for accepting of

**Risk babies;**

-Training of professionals and Foster parents for **urgent foster care;**

-Training of professionals and foster parents for accepting **children with moderate form of retardation**

Total number of 1066 professionals and 256 foster parents received Proper education.



A decorative graphic on the left side of the slide features three balloons: a green one at the top, a blue one in the middle, and a purple one at the bottom. Each balloon has a grid pattern and is surrounded by yellow streamers and small yellow triangles.

**programs were held in groups containing  
professionals and foster parents**

**CHILD IN PROTECTION  
PROGRAM – PREPARATION  
FOR CHANGE**

**5 groups – 122 participants**

**Shaping and changing children's  
behaviour**

**Two groups – 37 participants**





## FUTURE PLANS



STANDARDIZATION OF ALL SERVICES WITHIN CENTER AND TRAINING PROFESSIONALS



Program in the phase of ACCREDITATION: **Advisory services work with foster family –**

Professionals rated this program as very useful.

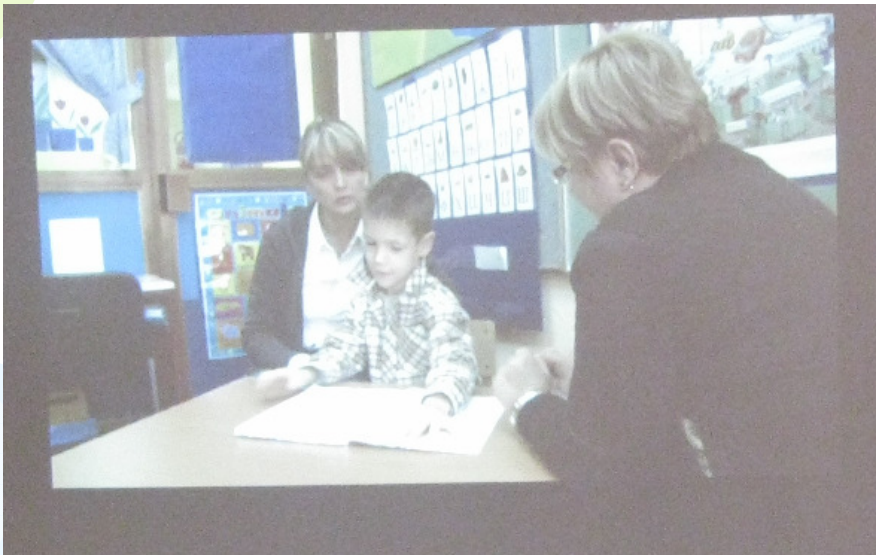


# Campaign for specijalized fostering

Campaign forms	Number
Media appearances	40
Leaflets	1
Promotional meetings	17
Posters	3
Movies	1
Participation in Job Fairs	2
Forums	2
Information material	2

**Around 200 foster families have applied**

# PROMOTIONAL MATERIAL



Movie “With full heart”



# STRENGTHENING OF FOSTER PARENTS

6 manuals

## 1. Foster care for babies

– guide for foster parents and professionals

## 2. Foster care for children with Down's syndrom

– guide for foster parents;

## 3. Foster care for children with intellectual disabilities – guide for foster parents and professionals

4. Urgent foster care – guide for foster parents and professionals



Authors: local experts

## 5. “Safe step to foster care” manual for preparation of Future foster parents

## 6. Informant about a child “My life path”



8 brochures

1. Attention deficit and hyperactivity disorder - A DHD

2. Cerebral paralysis

3. Personality disorder

4. Hepatitis C

5. HIV and AIDS

6. Epilepsy

7. Pre-natal alcohol disorder

8. Post-traumatic stress disorder

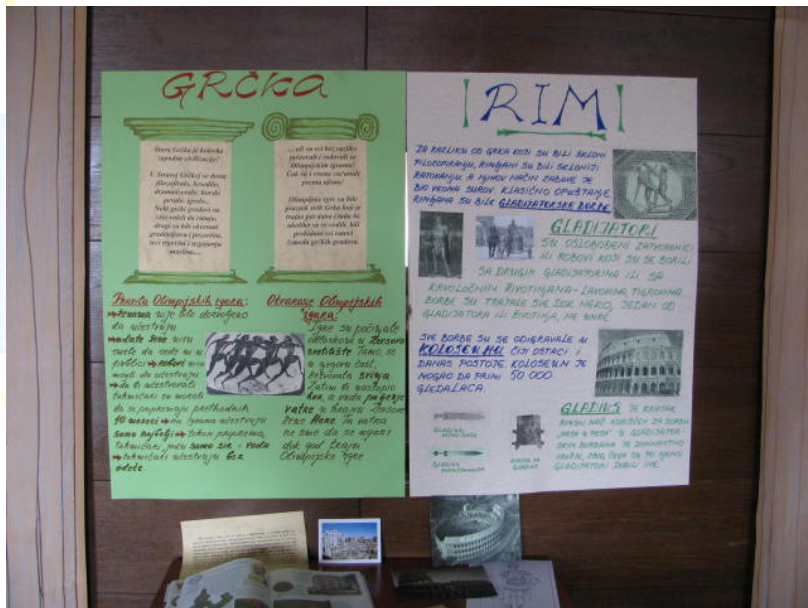


Author – Patric Donald  
Foreign expert

# Children strenghtening

## Working programs

„Vacation in Barajevo“,



Children from foster families in Barajevo, “Learning geography and history”

# Children strenghtening

## Working programs

Program „**All about me**“ – for children ages 6-9

Program „**Learning – it is not so hard**“ - ages 10-13

Program „**Communication skills**“ – 14 plus





# CHILDREN STRENGTHENING

- Excursions,
- sports and cultural activities
- Computer equipment
- Volunteers – learning support



*Received by the Minister*



*Volleyball training*



*Visiting the Museum of Science and M*

## Hiring therapist for children support

Children in foster families are provided by therapist's support:

(psychologists, speech therapists, physical therapist, child psychiatrist, special education teacher)

- Children with developmental disorder ..... 5
- Children with behavioral disorder..... 6
- Children with emotional issues..... 2
- Children with speaking skill disorder..... 5
- Children with multiple form of retardation..... 4
- Children with psychological problems..... 3
- Sexually abused children..... 6
- Children with cerebral paralysis ..... 6
- Children in adolescent crisis ..... 3

**Total amount of 40 children**

# Financial support to children and foster families

## 1. Home and space adapting for children

66. children

## 2. Financial support of foster family in order to meet child's needs

25. children

## 3. Support during the accommodation of children

40 children

# SHAPING THE PERSONALITIES CAPABLE ENOUGH TO LEAVE THE INSTITUTION

COOPERATION WITH HOMES FOR CHILDREN



New report model about child functioning

- **Strengths and needs of children** -



Special preparation of children and foster parents and  
Support during the period of adjustment

## ACCOMMODATION OF CHILDREN WITH DEVELOPMENT ISSUES WITHIN FOSTER FAMILIES IN 2010.

1. Risk babies .....	42
2. Children with intelectual difficulties.....	18
3. Children with behavioral disorder.....	12
4. Children with Down's syndrome .....	10
5. Children with multiple disabilities.....	10
6. Children with delayed psychomotor development..	10
7. Children with heart problems.....	8
8. Children with impaired senses.....	7
9. Children with neurological problems.....	6
10. Children with epilepsy.....	6
11. Children with organi disease.....	5
12. Children with disabilities.....	4
13. Children with hepatitis C.....	3

**140**

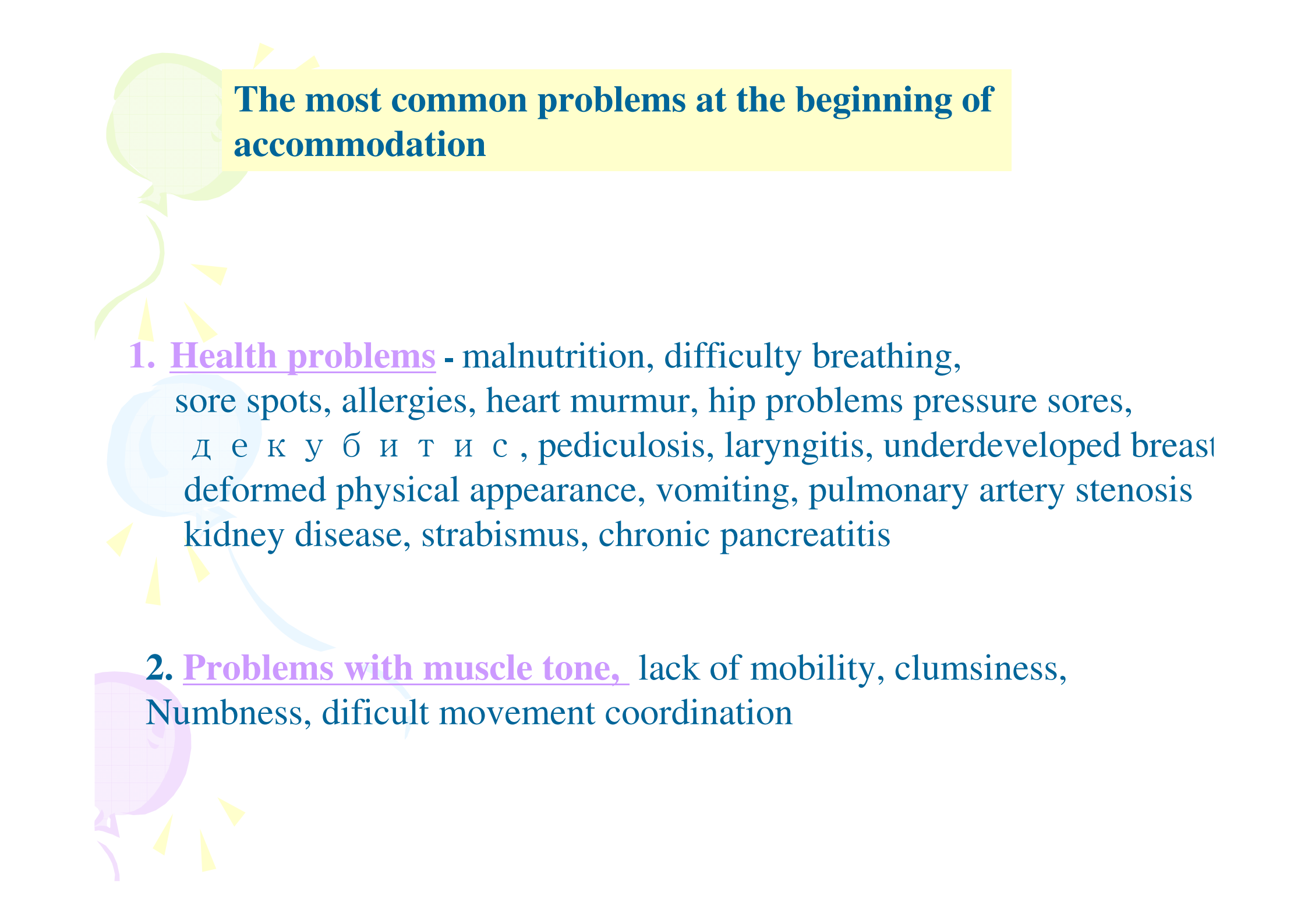
**All children remained n foster families and significant progress can be seen**

# ADVANCEMENT OF CHILDREN IN FOSTER FAMILIES

Sample - 22 childs

## Children's characteristics:

- ◆ Children born with L. Down's syndrome,
- ◆ Children with moderate and severe disabilities in mental development
- ◆ with autism
- ◆ cerebral paralysis
- ◆ severe forms of e pilepsy
- ◆ severely traumatized children
- ◆ children with behavioral disorder
- ◆ „risk“ babies born with low body weight and immature vital organs




## The most common problems at the beginning of accommodation


1. Health problems - malnutrition, difficulty breathing, sore spots, allergies, heart murmur, hip problems pressure sores, д е к у б и т и с , pediculosis, laryngitis, underdeveloped breast deformed physical appearance, vomiting, pulmonary artery stenosis kidney disease, strabismus, chronic pancreatitis
2. Problems with muscle tone, lack of mobility, clumsiness, Numbness, difficult movement coordination



## The most common problems at the beginning of accommodation

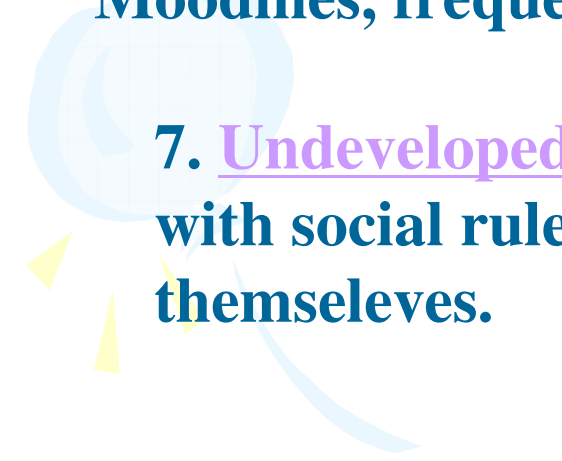
- 3. Disrupted daily rhythm**, difficulties with going to sleep, insomnia, nightmares, waking up frequently, excessive gluttony or refusal of food, without ability to recognize different types of food, lack Of sphincter control or urination
  - 4. Hard to reach**, distrust, non-selective binding, roking disruption of personal and sexual identity
  - 5. Temper tantrums with throwing themselves on the floor**, Aggression towards others, self-injury, screaming, suicide attempt
- 



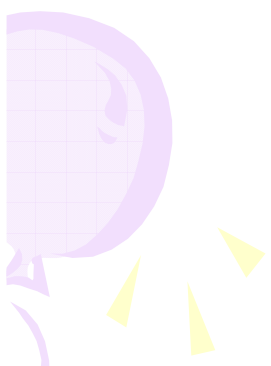


## The most common problems at the beginning of accommodation

6. Hypersensitivity to stimuli, tension, strong fears, Moodiness, frequent crying, depression, nightmares



7. Undeveloped speech, does not know how to play, unfamiliar with social rules, undeveloped basic skills of taking care of themselves.

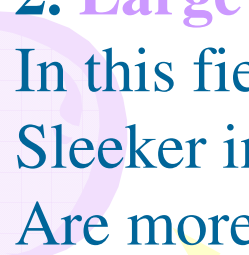




## Progress in the development while in foster families


**1. Health:** More stable, one child had successful heart surgery, other Children are always controlled by cardiologist, hernia is pulled, while Manifestation of neurological diseases are decreasing. Body growth, Increased body weight. Pshysical stigmata syndrome is reduced. Child has More attractive physical appearance. There is a significant allergy withdrawal, skin is recovered.

**2. Large motor skills are improved** in all children who had any delay In this field, children with cerebral paralysis are now able to walk, they Sleeker in fine motor movements, babies hold their heads on their own, Are more streighten




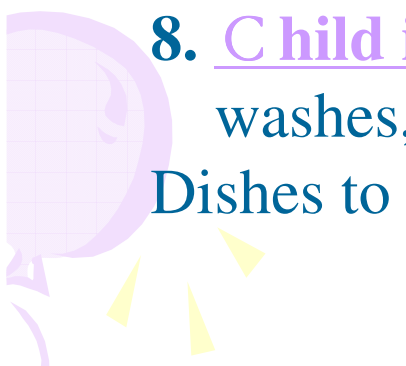


## Progress in the development while in foster families

- 3. Daily rhythm is established**, sleep is normalized, child eats all food in the amount age appropriate, eats slowly, there is progress in training
  - 4. Child accepts the proximity of foster parents**, seeks contact, Cuddles, talks, shows emotions more openly, child seems more Spontaneous and relaxed
  - 5. Accepts orders and restrictions**, cheerful mood, temper tantrums Are rare or completely gone, child is more gentle towards others, It is favorite in its social surroundings, behaves accordingly
- 



## Progress in the development while in foster families

- 6. Child looks peaceful**, reacts less violently to stimuli, it is less fearful, and keeps researching,
  - 7. There is significant speech development**, speech is now more Used for the purpose of communication, use of gestures to communicate, cooperation with other children and adults, tells jokes
  - 8. Child is more independent**: know how to dress and undress, washes, bathes and brushes teeth on its own, uses cutlery, takes Dishes to the sink, watches TV
- 
- 



## Recent developments



**PREPARATION TO MOVE CHILDREN FROM CENTER “KULINE” TO FOSTER FAMILIES**



**(THIS IS AN INSTITUTION WHERE CHILDREN WITH DELAYS IN DEVELOPMENT ARE HELD IN INADEQUATE CONDITIONS)**


**Cooperation with NGO “Child’S heart”**



**Foster families are chosen for 20 children**



## OVERALL EFFECTS

1. Strengthening the competencies of employees in CPS and CSR;
  2. Strengthening the competencies of foster parents;
  3. Change of work practices and application of modern approaches in Work of professionals and foster parents – placing children in foster Families instead of institutions – **5.300 children are in foster families, While 700 of them are still in institutions;**
  4. **Improving the quality of life for children in foster families;**
- 

## Indicators of change – in the example of Belgrade

1. The number of foster families has increased 3 times when compared with 2004.
2. The number of placed children (**babies**) from maternity hospital and health facilities by **69%**
3. Better school achievements of children – more than a half(**52,3%**) are **excellent and very good students**, and number of children who are repeating the grede has been reduced by 10%.

## Indicators of change – in the example of Belgrade for 2010. when compared to 2009.

4. Contacts with family of origin have been enhanced:

- 16% of children and more has regular contacts;
- telephone contacts are increased three times;

5. The number of children who did not achieved rights is decreased  
By 20%

6. The structure of kinship foster families is improved

- The number of kinship foster families where grandparents take care of children is reduced by 6%, but majority ( 52% ) of entire number of kinship foster families are like this
- The numer of other kinship families is increased by 6,5%



## Indicators of change – in the example of Belgrade for 2010. when compared to 2009.

7. The number of foster families in **urban areas** is increased by 20% and in rural areas is decreasing – **70%** of foster families are from urban areas

8. Educational structure of foster families is improved – 62% of foster parents have high school diploma or finished faculty;

9. Age structure of foster parents is improved – the most numerous foster parents are 40-50 years of age, while **21% of foster parents are 60+;**

## Indicators of change – in the example of Belgrade

9. The number of foster families that meet the standards for the child is increased by 8% in total amount of foster families (**81% meet the standards**, 15% have all the conditions to adapt the space for a child, and around 4% fails to meet the required standards).

**The most common problems are with extended families, especially Roma families (32% - Roma children).**



## AREAS THAT REQUIRE SPECIAL ATTENTION

- 1. Kinship foster care** – conditions, assessment when they benefit the child
  - current practice: very successful but also with the most problems;
- 2. Contacts of children with relatives** – ways to regulate them, monitor, Support and assess in the best interest of the child -
- 3. Highly traumatized children**, children with behavioral problem and children with psychiatric problems – there is not sufficient number Of foster parents
- 4. Balancing professional attitudes to guardianship** –
  - stands and views are often different but all important decisions Regarding the child brings the guardianship. These decisions are sometimes Different and not in accordance with stands and views of Center for family accommodation
- 5. Supporting children in the process of gaining independence** –
  - it is hard for them to find and rent apartment, find jobs....

## SUSTAINABILITY OF ACHIEVEMENTS – STRENGTHS AND RISKS

Based on statistics and qualitative changes which have been Accomplished in the field of foster care, it is believed that the most Was done in this field when compared with the rest of the system of social protection

### STRENGTHS

1. The acquired **knowledge** provides long-term effects in terms of Quality work both professionals and foster parents – continuity of Development is now established;

2. Resources:

- e ducational programs for work with foster parents, children And professionals;

- around 1.500 foster families in Serbia is currently waiting for Children accommodation – “empty families”

- monitoring and support for children and foster parents (each Family has its own adviser)



## SUSTAINABILITY OF ACHIEVEMENTS – STRENGTHS AND RISKS


- Manuals and other material (movies) as well as support for foster parents and professionals;

3. New system solutions – Laws (limitation regarding the placement of children under the age of three in institutions, defining the various forms of foster care, giving the licence for foster care, forming the centers for family accommodation and adoption as separate institutions...)



## SUSTAINABILITY OF ACHIEVEMENTS

### RISKS

1. Current economic crisis is reflected in the work of providing Adequate conditions for establishing and work of Centers for family accommodation – no admission of new workers – they are provided From institutions for children where the number of children is being Reduced. This is not sufficient.
  2. Uneven support to foster families – lack of staff in Center for family Accommodation in areas where the interest for foster care is greater
  3. The support of non-government sector is decreasing
- 



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**Thank you**

