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Developmental age disorders: An Adlerian interpretation to new discomfort in Italian children.

Chair: Thierry Paulmier (F)

Intended audience: *clinicians, students*

This work is intended to be a consideration about the etiology of the increasing frequency of learning difficulties, developmental disorders, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (DDAI), eating and sleep disorders. For a year and a half, I had the chance to draw an accurate picture of the child's world while working in a small family counselling in the center of Milan and in some primary schools on the outskirts of the town. In the first situation I practiced as a clinical psychologist, administrating psycho-emotional assessments to the children. In the second situation I worked as a teacher and could observe the childrens behaviour in the class room. In a very competitive society based on the achievement of success, parents are inclined to instill these values in their children. As a result their play is competitive and they only want to excell and are not interested in sharing or collaborating. Practicing as an individual psychologist, observing the child in his natural environment, as other behavioural psychologists do, I could record his conscious and unconscious wishes to belong to his group; therefore I could induce him, since these first knowing approaches, to guide his supposed inferiority towards the environment to a more aware and effective attitude. Indeed we know that if the environment is positive, the child will gradually overcome his inferiority feelings. If, on the other hand, the setting is hostile or is perceived as such, most probably the child will develop an increasing feeling of inadequacy, making him drift towards an inferiority complex.

Learning Objectives:

1. Participants will learn the Adlerian approach to the effects of family instability on child development.