

## **Medical and psycho-pedagogical assistance to children**

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### **Comment on the article by Lazurenko S.B. and Namazova-Baranova L.S. "Organization of psychological and educational assistance in the complex program of rehabilitation for children with severe chronic hereditary metabolic diseases (on the example of mucopolysaccharidosis)"**

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The addition of the "**Medical and psycho-pedagogical assistance to children**" heading to the journal was not simply due to a desire to expand the range of topics for scientific discussion in the pages of medical publications. This is a deliberate response to the challenge of time. Lengthy discussion of the feasibility of combining efforts of doctors and teachers to shape the physical and mental health of child population in Russia is translating into reality. Equally concerned cooperation is the result of long-term efforts of researchers and practitioners to integrate the knowledge and achievements of pediatrics, pedagogy, psychology, defectology and at the same time, to show the evidence of dramatic changes occurring in the last decade in domestic science. In terms of the demographic crisis facing many countries, including the Russian Federation, the special alarm is caused by steady decline in level of health of younger generation.

The interaction of specialists in different fields in order to develop a unified interdisciplinary perspective of the reasons and mechanisms of violations of mental development is the only reliable guarantee of becoming an effective system of integrated care to the children with limited health possibilities.

The historical retrospective convinces crossing interests of physicians, educators, psychologists leading to finding solutions, which are equally enriching the theory and practice of age and clinical psychology, neuroscience, general and remedial teaching. It is enough to remind that the domestic defectology is a science of patterns and characteristics of children with physical and mental violations; systems, principles, methods, forms of education and training organizations representing an integrative area of scientific knowledge, which originally connects

the clinical, physiological and psycho-pedagogical research areas of development and education of children. Scientific basis for the formation of early (in the first months of life) is included as the priority research areas of contemporary science to identify early violations in the development and comprehensive (medical and psycho-pedagogical) assistance to the child, the development of content and methods of interaction with family professionals. Accumulated FGSI "Institute of Correctional Education" RAO experience convinces: the earliest possible detection of early and comprehensive support to the child reaches the level of mental development, essentially inaccessible at a later date of the beginning of special education; and lacks coordinated interaction between doctors and teachers from the first months of baby's life. Conclusive proof of this fact leads to realize the necessity of rebuilding the entire system using a special children's population. We note the satisfaction of the positive developments taking place in the national health care, including the development and introduction of new, noninvasive methods for conservation and maintenance of health, full development of the child, as well as the use of psychological and psychotherapeutic methods of influence on the human body.

Thus, the logic of the movement of scientific thought and aspirations of families raising children with limited possibilities of health requests state demand from a physician, a special educator, psychologist, also special informed and coordinated cooperation at different age stages of life. Hopefully, the departmental divisions that were repeatedly criticized would remain in the past.

In our opinion the opening heading confirms the mutual interest of health and education representatives. Published data will introduce the interested professional reader with the results of scientific and practical activities in related research areas in health care; psychological and pedagogical aspects will be taken into consideration in pediatrics health care; and finally, an informative episode for a productive discussion will be offered concerning developing an overall strategy for integrated care for children.

The article of the organization of psychological and educational assistance to children with a rare (orphan) disease – MPS is opening the heading. We would like to demonstrate the implementation of the principle of comprehensiveness and phasing in the diagnosis and rehabilitation by using this study as an example.