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Overcoming language barriers in day care

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CONTEXT | METHOD

There is an increase of immigrant parents who bring their children to day care. The fact that some of them are Non-Dutch and Non-English speaking causes a language barrier between the parents and the Dutch child care professionals. During the intake interview it's hard for the child care professionals to find out what the characteristics of the child are and if there are any other important issues concerning the child and the situation at home they have to take into account. Also on a daily basis, child care professionals find it hard to exchange child care matters and other issues relevant to the child and to give suggestions to stimulate the development of the child at home.

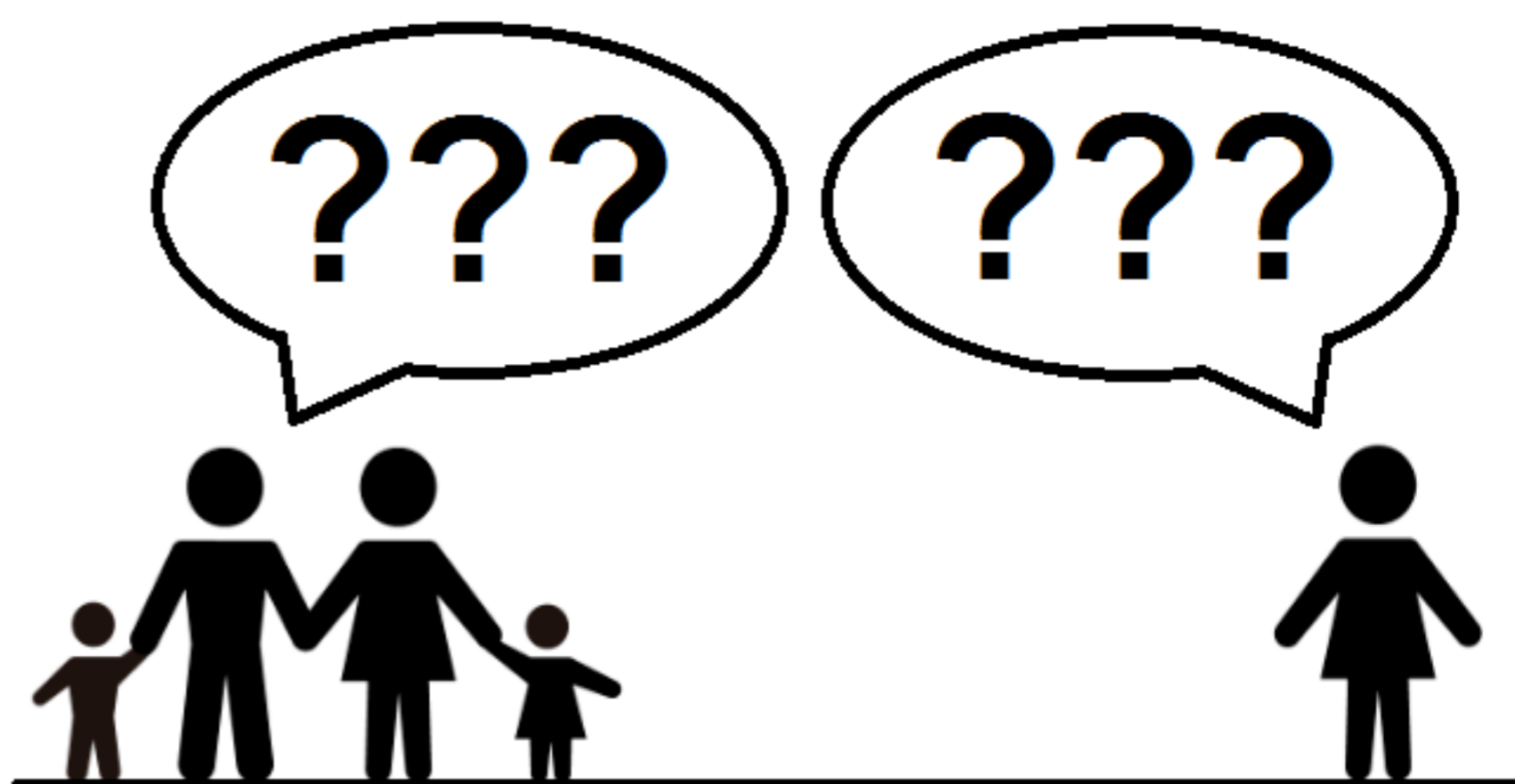
The research will focus on conducting a literature review on best practices and making an inventory of the current situation in the local day care to provide the day care organisation with practical suggestions on how to improve the communication between child carers and Non-Dutch and Non-English speaking parents.

REASON | MOTIVATION

- As coordinator of the Science Shop Education at the University of Groningen I feel obliged to find a way of helping the local child care organization that raised this issue with finding a student that will conduct the research.
- As a mother I sympathize with parents who entrust their children (their most precious possession) to child care professionals, which is even more difficult when the child care professionals don't speak the same language as the parents.
- As an educationalist I think transfer of information between child care professionals and parents is crucial for stimulating a positive development of the child.
- As an Afghanistan veteran I sympathize with immigrants who flee from war to Europe.

CHALLENGES

- ❖ Finding a student to conduct the research.
- ❖ Finding immigrant parents who are willing to participate in this research.
- ❖ The language barrier itself to communicate with the immigrant parents.
- ❖ The language barrier problems are growing.



EXPECTED RESULTS | IMPACTS

- ✓ Implementation of the best practices and practical suggestions into the early childhood education program
- ✓ Increase of trusting relationships in day care between child care professionals and immigrant parents
- ✓ Increase of parental engagement in day care and early childhood education
- ✓ Enhancement of the well-being of immigrant children