# HOST PARENTS' EXPERIENCES OF ACCOMODATING CHILDREN IN NEED OF CARE

**By**

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**DECLARATION**

I hereby declare that the dissertation, HOST PARENTS' EXPERIENCES OF ACCOMODATING CHILDREN IN NEED OF CARE is my own work and that all resources that were used or referred to by me during the research study, are indicated by means of a complete reference and acknowledgement.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

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## ABSTRACT:

Despite remarkable strides being made in legislation in South Africa, the country still faces immense challenges which directly impact on the care and protection of its children. Many children are removed from their families and placed into alternative care because of high risk factors in the family and community. However, because of the socio-economic situations of families, many of these children will not be able to return to their family. It is, therefore, essential that in the residential care programme, efforts are directed towards permanency planning for each child in order to ensure long term placement in a family. The host parent programme which has been introduced at Child and Youth Care Centres (CYCCs) acts as a precursor to foster-care placements. Following on this, host parents provide the child in need of care with opportunities to interact and form positive relationships with adult caregivers.

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This study has explored and described, by means of qualitative research, the experiences of host parents who accommodated children in need of care. Nine host parents were purposively selected from three participating CYCCs in Athlone, Cape Town. Data was collected by means of semi-structured individual interviews. The data was analysed according to the steps by Tesch in Creswell (2009). The findings suggest that host parents are instrumental to those children who cannot return to their natural families. The host parents' interaction with the CYCC was both positive and negative at times. Recommendations and guidelines in order to develop and improve existing hosting programmes at CYCC's are provided.

**KEYWORDS**:

**Host Parent:**

Host parents are regarded as substitute parents providing a home for a child already placed in a children's home for short periods eg. holidays, weekends (Leliebloem Manual, 2004).

**Permanency Planning:**

The movement to promote plans ensuring permanency or stability in the lives of children and youth (Maluccio, Fein, Olmstead, 1986).

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**Child and Youth Care Center**:

It's a facility for the provision of residential care to more than six children outside the childs' family environment in accordance with a residential care programme suited for the children in the facility (Childrens' Ammendment Act, 2007).

**Foster care**:

A child is in foster care if the child has been placed in the care of a person who is not the parent or guardian of the child as a result of a court order (Children's Act 38 of 2005).

**ACRONYMS:**

1. HIV – Human Immuno Virus

2. AIDS – Acuired Immune Deficiency Syndrome

3. IMC – Inter- Ministerial Committee

4. SANCFCFW- South African National Council for Child and Family Welfare

5. Child and Youth Care Center- CYCC

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