

# Communication in foster family

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**Abstract.** *As there are different types of communication, the main thought of the final paper is related to the examination of the connection between communication regarding the foster family and the usual communication. The assumption and starting point of the work is the fact that communication in the foster family brings more dedicated work concerning the quality of communication and requires more time than usual communication. However, what brings us to this assumption? A different experience of children and young people before becoming a part of a foster family brings changes and challenges that everyone in the foster family face. These are all new situations that require a different approach to each child and young person because of their previous experience and different ways of seeing a particular situation. Therefore, foster care brings a wider picture that needs to be constantly analyzed because it is a way to understand these two types of communication better. During the analysis of these types of communication, the work of institutions mustn't be ignored. Accordingly, a survey was conducted in the association Zipka – udruga udomitelja za djecu i mlade Varaždinske županije using 2 methods: a questionnaire and an interview. The research through the questionnaire consists of 26 questions where within several questions there is a sub-question. In addition, a significant part is made of graphical representations to enable better and clearer interpretation. The other research is based on an interview which consists of 16 questions and content analysis is used there. Given the results of the research, it is concluded that foster parents are the ones who first recognize the emotions of children in everyday situations. As seen in the interview, the employees and vice president of the association go deeper into the topic of conversation than the foster parent does, but the questionnaire shows that the foster parents recognize the important role of Zipka – udruga za djecu i mlade Varaždinske županije as a participant in child development. This shows the fact that 44% of respondents believe talking to employees and volunteers in the association is helpful for the child, while 35% of respondents point out that the conversation helps completely. Finally, promoting*

*foster care through connecting foster families was noticed, which is important for increasing the quality of foster care.*

**Keywords.** Foster family, communication, questionnaire, association, interview.

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