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Matching children with foster carers

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Propositions accompanying the dissertation

Matching children with foster carers

The decision-making process of finding a non-kinship foster family for a child

Kirti Zeijlmans

1. The matching process in family foster care is pivotal in ensuring a positive placement experience. *(this dissertation)*
2. Choosing the best match between a foster child and a foster family is a complex process due to the multitude of case factors that might be related to placement success, as well as the influence of organizational, external, and decision-maker factors. *(this dissertation)*
3. All non-kinship foster care placements start with a matching decision; even emergency placements are preceded by a matching process, although often quite rudimentary. *(this dissertation)*
4. Research and existing guidelines on matching in family foster care often do not translate easily to the complexity of everyday decision-making; there is a large gap between theory and practice. *(this dissertation)*
5. Bureaucratic rules and financial issues often unnecessarily interfere with the well-being of a foster child in the matching process. *(this dissertation)*
6. Participation of stakeholders (foster child, foster family and birth family) should be seen as an important and indispensable component of the matching process. *(this dissertation)*
7. Matching decisions require a skilled professional who is alert to nuances of daily practice and who is flexible to address the obstacles and challenges of everyday practice; therefore, it concerns tasks that cannot be made by a computer anytime soon. *(this dissertation)*
8. It is difficult to act on scientific conclusions in matching, because for the most part the conclusions are based on consistencies, averages and probabilities across children and carers. *(David Quinton)*
9. The trouble with having an open mind, of course, is that people will insist on coming along and trying to put things in it. *(Terry Pratchett)*
10. Seldom, very seldom does complete truth belong to any human disclosure; seldom can it happen that something is not a little disguised, or a little mistaken. *(Jane Austen)*