



# Why social work needs you

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To understand trust and stuff

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Professor of  
Youth and  
Family

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PhD

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Pedagogue

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# Youth and Familie

- Professional fostercare
- Contextual approach
- Informal networks and late-modernity

Not a good matching

Collaboration with parents fails

Severe behavioral problems

# BREAK DOWN

JOUW  
GEZIN

MIJN  
ZORG?

# Trust & stuff



# Research question



- What makes a collaboration between a professional fosterparent and a biological parent constructive?



# Research design

- Focusgroups with 20 professional fosterparents
- In-depth interviews with 20 biological parents
- In-depth interviews with 20 adolescents



## *Constructive elements*

- Being open and willing to communicate
- Being empathic and respectful
- Being hospitable, interested and patient
- Being focused on reciprocity
- **Having a contextual awareness**

(Van de Koot & Noordegraaf, 2018)

## *Understanding that parents are not replaceable*

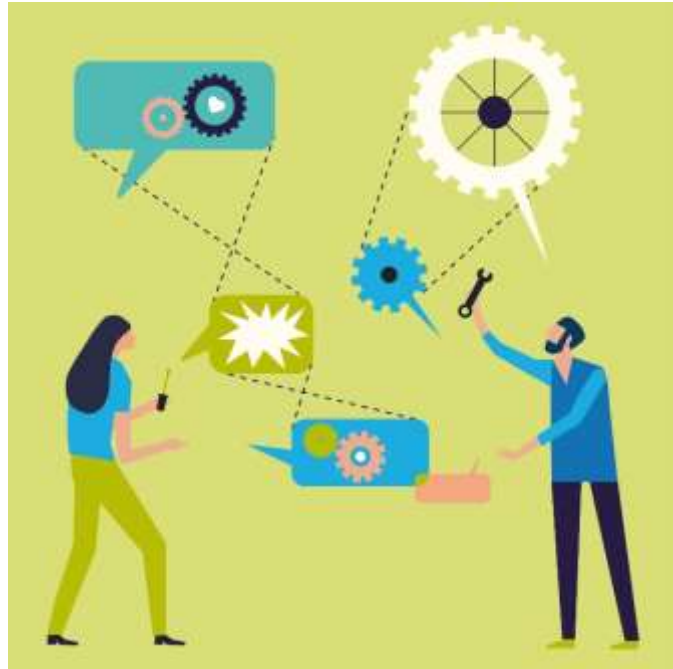
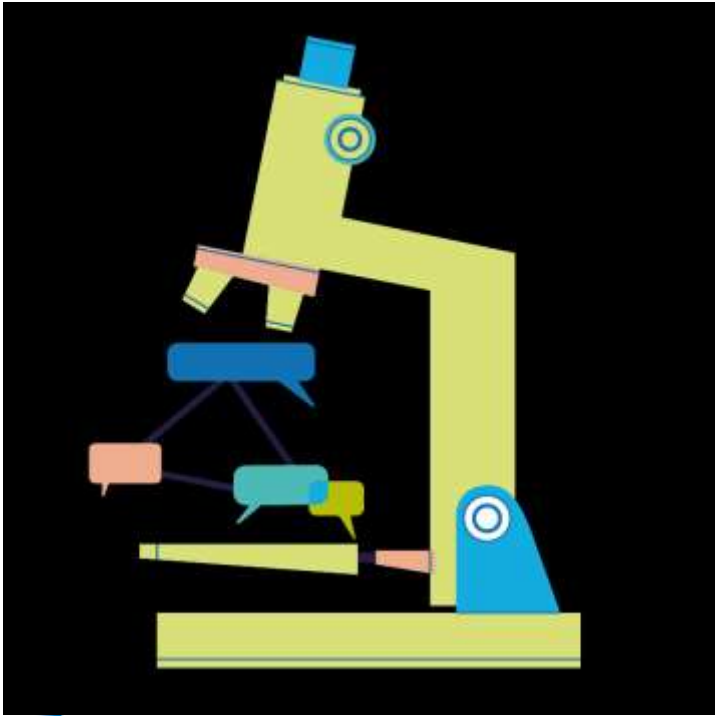
*Adolescent: 'They take a mother's task, so that's exactly the same, besides yes, your mom still is a bit more important, because it still is your real mom and not someone replaceable'* (Jongere, 2017, 9:14).

## *That we share a longing to trust and to be trusted*

*‘That you in any case put the child first, whatever is good for him. I mean, it is very difficult to hand over your child and to let it raise by someone else. And you have to be open for... Building trust and be open for. Just tell them what you want or what you expect. You have to come into conversation. Yes yes. How to say that? That not only the professional parents can tell the parents what they expect from them, but also vice versa and that the professional foster parents are also aware of the fact that is quite difficult for parents. But that in any case the child is a priority, from both sides (Parent, 2017, 15: 223)*

## *That we are in need of a contextual approach*

*'I thought it was weird, parents are left to their fate. The children are taken care for, but the parents they leave them like it's your own fault, take care of yourself. Then they said like yes youthcare is for children and not for parents. I think they should do something with that'* (Parent, 2017, 9: 592).





**HELP  
WANTED**