

Note from the Editorial Board

Early care and visual disability in Spain: essential aspects addressed in contributions to a professional conference

As *Integración* readers will have noticed, this monographic issue differs from others more for the materials published than for its format. For that reason, the English abstracts normally included to enhance the visibility of our publications and their international dissemination have been exceptionally omitted. With that aim in mind, however, the journal's Editorial Board has prepared an abstract of the overall content of the encounter for interested readers outside the Spanish-speaking world and specialised database editors and compilers.

Early care for children with visual disabilities: professional conference.
Organización Nacional de Ciegos Españoles (ONCE) Educational Resource Centre, Seville, Spain, 16-17 November 2016.

This 70th issue of *Integración* contains a summarised version of participants' contributions to the 2-day conference. An English translation of the titles is provided with each article.

In the five round tables held, reputed experts analysed the state of play of early care from different perspectives, addressing subjects such as neurological development, the most characteristic disorders found in early childhood, work with families and the promising advances in neuroscience.

So-called «think tanks» sought to engage the professionals attending in active participation, providing them with an organised space for pooling their ideas. Nine essential aspects of early care provision were discussed in these sessions, including professionals' role and their training and qualification within ONCE, the potential of working with families, the various intervention models, shared experiences, bodily perception, the needs associated with multiple disabilities, the decisive role of brain plasticity and mother-child bonding.

The short communications were so called because the speakers were allowed just 8 minutes for their presentations. More or less brief synopses of the 24 communications, which afford a varied overview of the major aspects of the early care provided by ONCE at this time, may be found in these pages. The basic and organisational issues comprehensively covered include early care service planning and provision, quality management and good practice, care for premature babies and hospital protocols, the role of new information and communication technologies in educational programming, work with families in all its many facets, the development of specific educational materials, the empowerment of empathy among teachers and many other specific matters.

Authors' and participants' details are provided for readers in either language interested in exploring any of the subjects outlined here in greater depth.