





## Social Constructions in Children in Protection and Care: Interaction, Social Network and Trust

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### Abstract

This research seeks an answer to the question of how children in protection and care construct their interactions in daily life. The theoretical discussion of the study is based on the association of the daily life performances of children raised in institutions with the concept of social capital. A qualitative research design was employed in the study, progressing in layers through several approaches. Initially, an observation-focused autoethnographic approach was used. Subsequently, six participants selected as a sample were brought together with first-year students from the department of sociology in a classroom setting. A story prepared by the researchers was told to the children, who were then asked to draw a picture depicting the concepts of social relationships, trust, and society based on the story. These pictures were analyzed through expert evaluations, leading to the second layer of the study. In the second layer, the meanings attributed by children who had grown up in care homes to their upbringing processes in the institution were discussed. Thus, the dimensions of being under care and protection was shaped through social capital with seven participants who had transitioned out of institutional care. One of the most fundamental results of the study is that the participants constructed a hybrid identity within the institution without abandoning their past. It has been revealed that after becoming independent from the institution, they continued to live with these hybrid identities in their daily lives.

### Keywords

Social Capital, Trust, Interaction, Network, Child in Protection and Care

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