



Exercise article S.J. Leathers (2003)

Read the article by Leathers, S. (2003). Parental visiting, conflicting allegiances, and emotional and behavioral problems among foster children. Family Relations 52(1), 53-63 and answer the following questions.

1. What are the research questions?

Aim of the study is to analyze, how parental visiting affects foster child's well-being and leads to emotional and behavioral disturbance.

Research question: Is there a relationship between the frequency and circumstances of parental visiting and allegiance of foster child's to their new family, as well as emotional and behavioral disturbance of foster child's.

2. What are the research hypotheses?

- 1. Children have difficulty maintaining a strong relationship between both foster parents and biological parents.*
- 2. Frequent parental visiting is associated indirectly with loyalty conflict through its correlation with allegiance to biological parents.*
- 3. Loyalty conflict and children's emotional and behavioral disturbance are correlated.*

3. Which data are used?

see section Data Collection

4. Are the data reliable and valid?

To achieve validity, Mrs. Leathers has used several dependent variables and she has tested the results with regard to consistency (p. 56).

To achieve reliability, Mrs. Leathers used proxies established in the literature (p. 56).

Furthermore, Mrs. Leathers discussed extensively the limited validity of the used data (p. 61)

5. Which methods are used?

Descriptive statistics (correlation coefficient)

Hierarchical multivariate regression (a special form of multivariate regression)

6. What are the results of the study?

Frequent visitation is potentially difficult for foster children because of loyalty conflicts that might accompany frequent visiting. The results suggest that interventions designed to reduce loyalty conflicts might improve the adaptation of high-risk foster children (abstract, p. 53).