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Episode 11 : **Advocacy & Support**

**Summary of Episode:**


Marja Hodes is a clinical psychologist from the Netherlands with extensive experience working with parents with intellectual disabilities. Her frame of mind is about finding appropriate ways to support parents and continuously staying open to their lived expertise.

**Biography:**

**Marja W. Hodes, PhD** is clinical, educational and family psychologist and head of the psychologists of the Dutch service organization ASVZ, department of family services. She has worked for the past 38 years with families headed by parents with intellectual disabilities. Together with her colleagues, she developed the toolkit “Talking About Children.” This toolkit supports future parents with intellectual disabilities to think carefully about the consequences of having and raising a child. In 2010, she won a national award for this toolkit. With the money of this award ,a website was build with free downloadable tools to support future parents. In addition to her clinical work, in 2008, she started scientific research concerning parenting by parent with intellectual disabilities at the VU Amsterdam. She developed the Video-Feedback Intervention to promote Positive Parenting for parents with Learning Difficulties (VIPP-LD). Regularly she advocates for parents with intellectual disabilities in court cases. She is the co-author of the chapter ‘The Choice of Becoming a Parent’ in the book entitled ‘Choice, Preference and Disability (2020).Marja is board member and European representative of the Special Interest Research Group Parenting of IASSID.

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## References:

### Articles

Hodes, M. W., Meppelder, M., de Moor, M., Kef, S., & Schuengel, C. (2017). Alleviating parenting stress in parents with intellectual disabilities: A randomized controlled trial of a video-feedback intervention to promote positive parenting. *JARID- Special Issue*, 30, 423-432.

Hodes, M. W., Meppelder, M., de Moor, M., Kef, S., & Schuengel, C. (2017). Effects of video-feedback intervention on harmonious parent-child interaction and sensitive discipline of parents with intellectual disabilities: A randomized controlled trial. *Child Care Health Development*.

Aunos, M., Hodes, M., Llewellyn, G., Spencer, M., Pacheco, L., Jareslåt, G., Tarleton, B., Springer, L., & Höglund, B. (2020). Chapter 14: The choice of becoming a parent. In R. J. Stancliffe, M. L. Wehmeyer, K. A. Shogren, & B. H. Abery (Eds), *Choice, Preference, and Disability: An International Perspective*. Springer Publishing.

### Resources

The Toolkit can be find at the following site: <https://www.asvz.nl/specialismen/kinderwensouderschap/supporting-future-parents/>

***The Special Interest Research Group on Parents and Parenting with Intellectual Disabilities*** was founded in 1996 at an international conference in Denmark which was organized by the Danish Ministry of Social Affairs and The EU Commission. The SIRG/PID was formally affiliated with the International Association on the Scientific Study of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IASSIDD) in 2002. The mission of the Special Interest Research Group on Parents and Parenting with Intellectual Disabilities is:

- To create opportunities for international and multidisciplinary networking ;
- To foster research and innovation ;
- To expose social and systemic discrimination against and promote equalisation of opportunity for parents with intellectual disabilities and their children ;
- To facilitate the translation of knowledge from research into policies and practices.

<https://iassidd.org/sirgs/parenting-with-intellectual-disabilities/>