*Heidi Chydenius & Satu Valkonen*

**Tensions in multiprofessional teams in ECEC centres: a Goffmanian face work perspective**

The article examines tensions and their regulation within multiprofessional teams in early childhood education and care (ECEC) centres. The data for the article consist of group interviews (n=21), which were analysed using Goffman's concept of face work. The aim of the study was to recognise situations that produce tension in team interaction and thus induce the need to save the other person's face or one's own face. Our analysis shows that face work takes place in all its forms. According to our interpretation, the need for face work is established especially when the personnel has conflicting views of the teacher's responsibility. We critically examine the normative discourses related to multiprofessional teamwork and the foundations of multiprofessionalism from the perspective of the basic task of ECEC and the best interest of the children.

Keywords: ECEC centre, face work, Goffman, multiprofessionalism, teamwork