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## A story of illness and identity



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### Description

**Title** A story of illness and identity

**Name** Foulkes-Garcia, Alice (author); Rutgers University; School of Social Work

**Date Created** 2015

**Other Date** 2015-10 (degree)

**Subject** Social Work, Psychotropic drugs, Pediatric psychopharmacology--Case studies

**Extent** 1 online resource (20 p.)

**Description** This phenomenological case study was a first-person practitioner account of an in-home therapist working for a case management organization that provides therapeutic counseling services to children. The psychosocial development of this 16-year-old Latina female, a recent immigrant to the United States, occurred in a medicalized environment with biological treatments that led to the development of an illness identity and the need for medication to manage emotions. The case includes a discussion of the side effects of medication, the impact of culture, and role of attachment. The pharmaceutical industry has invested significant financial resources in the treatment of mental illness and emotional/behavioral disorders in children. Little is known, however, about the long-term side effects of psychotropic medication in individuals who initiate use at a young age. This case study argues for a reduction in long-term use of psychotropic medication in children. The author utilized cognitive behavioral therapeutic techniques to teach coping skills and to reintegrate the child into the community after an extended hospitalization and subsequent residential placement.

**Note** DSW

**Note** Includes bibliographical references

**Note** by Alice Foulkes-Garcia

**Genre** theses, ETD doctoral

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Psychotropic medication use by children in child welfare. Retrieved from [http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/opre/psych\\_med.pdf](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/opre/psych_med.pdf) 2 Fernandes-Alcantara, A. L., Caldwell, S., & Stoltzfus, E. (2014). Child welfare: Oversight of psychotropic medication for children in foster care. Washington, DC: Congressional Research Service. 3 Information about younger children may be found through the following links: <http://www.aap.org/fostercare>, <http://www.nctsn.org>, <http://www.samhsa.gov>, and <http://www.zerotothree.org>. The effects of trauma may make it harder for youth to do the following: • Trust others. • Control physical and emotional responses to stress. Long-term use of oral medications containing large amounts of sweeteners has been linked to excessive development of dental caries in children.14,15 Sugars, especially sucrose, cause a decrease in dental plaque pH, dissolving tooth enamel and promoting dental caries. 13,14 As a result, it is recommended that sugar-free products be used whenever long-term therapy is expected. If a product containing a sweetener must be used, parents or care providers should be instructed to have the child rinse his or her mouth out with water following ingestion of each dose.13. A wide variety of flavorin A new study cautions the use of psychotropic medications for children. Morris and Stone claim that family health professionals are put in the line of fire when children begin to experience the negative consequences of long-term use of these medications. They are left with the challenge of evaluating the quality of evidence-based care offered to their pediatric clients by the psychiatric community, and the negative effects of the medications without sufficient empirical evidence or information. make a difference: sponsored opportunity. Story Source: Materials provided by Wiley-Blackwell. Note: Content may be edited for style and length. Journal Reference: James Mo Objective: Despite limited information related to efficacy in children, psychotropic medications are commonly prescribed as a first-line treatment for a range of psychiatric diagnoses in children in a variety of clinical settings. Usage has increased over the past three decades. Although psychotropic medications are often effective at treating psychiatric symptoms, the risk of adverse effects (AE) in children is unclear. Methods: Psychotropic medication monitoring checklists were used to record possible AE for 99 pediatric clients in a tertiary

mental health residential treatment centre for the duration of one to eight weeks. Client characteristics, including the number of diagnoses and behavioural variables, were explored for predictive value of potential AE observed.