

The Web of Affects: a Narrative and Ethics of Care Approach To Sexual Orientation in Early Childhood Education

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ABSTRACT

This documentary addressed the need to overcome fragmented and biological approaches to sexuality education in early childhood. To this end, it proposed an innovative theoretical framework that integrates the narrative perspective and the ethics of care, with the fundamental objective of analyzing the interplay of emotions: a narrative and ethics of care approach to sexuality education in early childhood education. The methodology employed was qualitative-hermeneutic, using a systematic documentary analysis of primary and secondary sources. This process allowed for the contrasting and synthesis of the key theoretical constructs for the proposal. The main results demonstrated a productive synergy between both approaches. The narrative approach redefines childhood sexuality as a process of co-constructing meaning through bodily and affective narratives. Simultaneously, the ethics of care provides The axiological foundation guides pedagogical practice toward responsiveness, mindfulness, and harm prevention. The integration of both shapes the central concept of the "web of affections," which describes the relational texture where a healthy experience of sexuality is woven. In conclusion, the study proposes a paradigm shift: sexual orientation in early childhood education should not be instruction, but rather the conscious cultivation of a nurturing narrative space. This model offers concrete principles for teacher training and pedagogical practice, emphasizing ethical listening and respect for children's bodies as fundamental pillars.

Keywords: Early childhood education, sexual orientation, narrative approach, ethics of care, web of affections, early childhood pedagogy.

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