Joint physical custody (JPC) : what to advise ?

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Associations
Politics
Judges
Lawyers
Child Protection Offices
Doctors
Psychologists
Mediators

Maintenance of the significant **relationships.**
Two parents =care givers+identification figures+genealogy carriers

"Healthy enough" parents

Joint parenthood with respect and communication

Flexibility, adaptation of the environment to the changing needs of the growing child

Security, stability, continuity, routines (mostly for infants)

The child's needs
before any type of PC

Professionals should be child-centered and promote these 5 basic needs before any intervention. They should forbid parents or other professionals to be disrespectful to the other parent, because it is harmful for the child and for the parents' conflict resolution.

Types of JPC and rules

Infants
- Alternate residency and/or overnights at the "second care giver's" : ok according to more and more studies
- Breast feeding should still be possible (+/- breast pump) at least until 6 months old
- Alternative: "nestcare"= parents alternating at the infant's residency

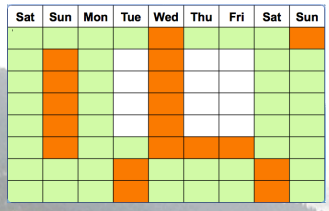
Before 3 years old
- At least daily or every other day visits/ activities with each care giver
- No longer separations from each care giver than the time spent in day care or at the grand parents'

After 3 years old
The regular separation time from each parent should not exceed in days the age of the child in years

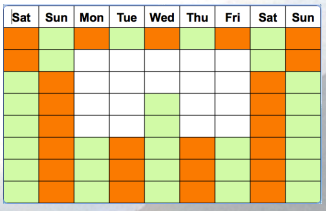
Adolescents
There can be more flexibility and more possibility for the adolescent to choose his residency

Examples

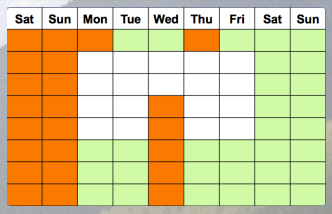
For breastfed infants



Daily change



Shared custody 35%-65%



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