

# Moral education in schools

## The Argentine case

Lula Majdalani

Center for Moral Development



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# Values Project



- ◆ Aimed at children aged 4-8
- ◆ To awaken their moral conscience
- ◆ Presented to teachers
- ◆ Fosters prosocial behavior

# Values Project



# Values Project



# Values Project: Demographics

- Malargüe: Since 2004
  - 22 schools
  - 200 teachers
  - 2000 children
- Bariloche: Since 2006
  - 15 schools
  - 130 teachers
  - 3000 children
- Tierra del Fuego: Since 2008
  - 57 schools
  - 500 teachers
  - 12.500 children

# MALARGÜE



# BARILOCHE



# TIERRA DEL FUEGO

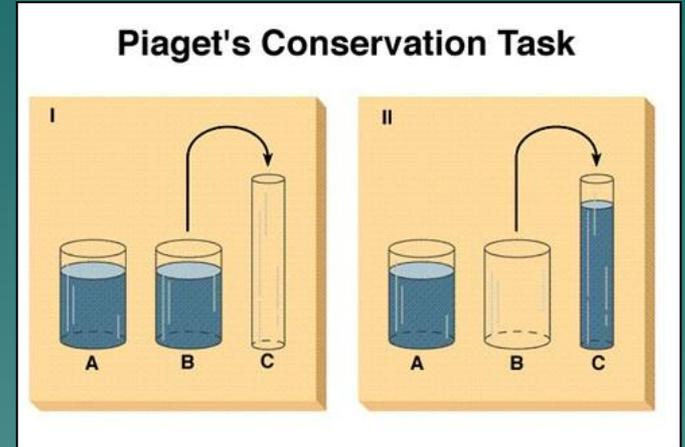
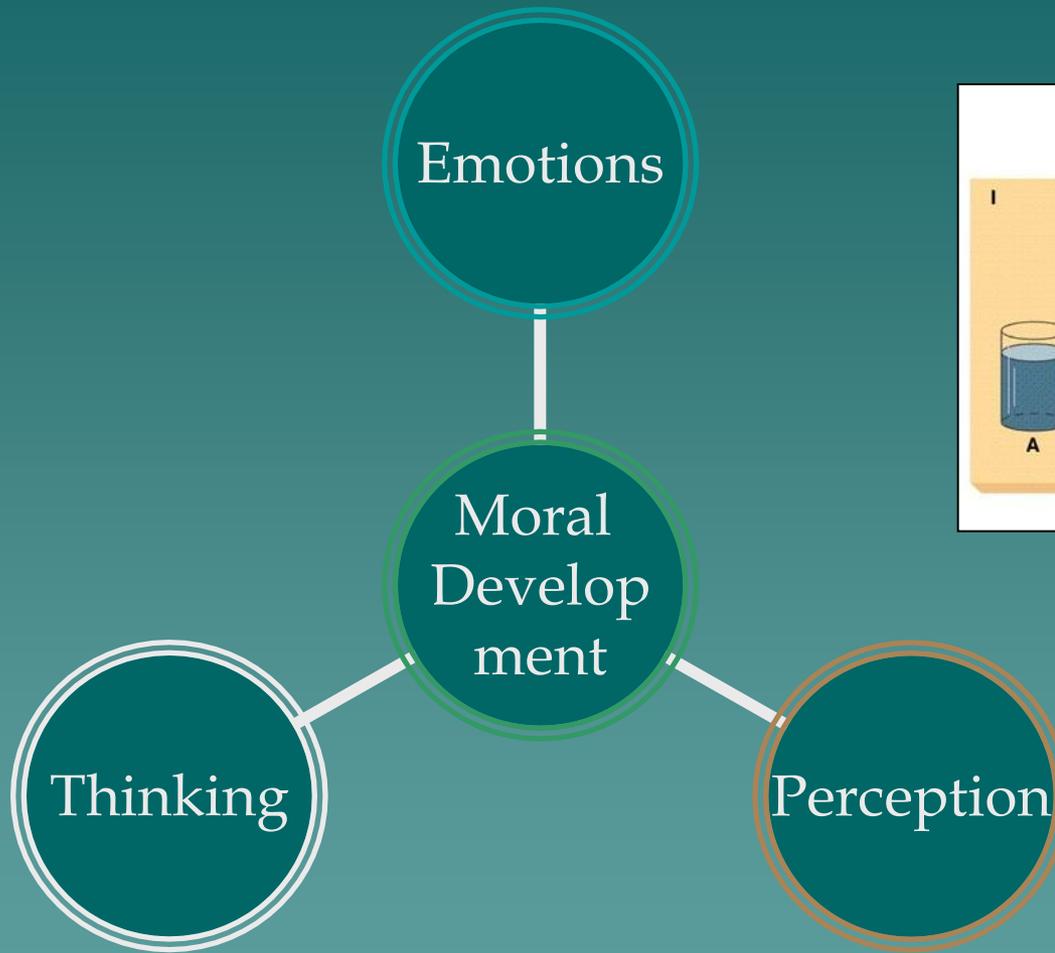


# Values Project



- ◆ Teacher training
- ◆ Didactic material
- ◆ Evaluation

# Teacher training



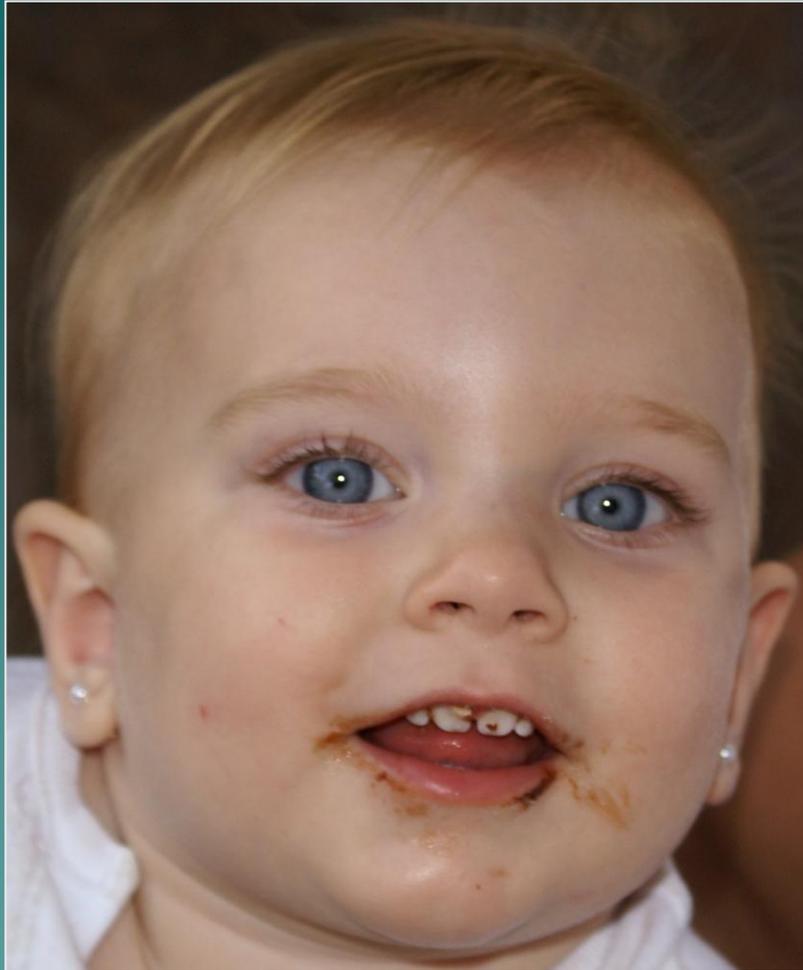
# Emotions

## Primary emotions

joy  
surprise  
fear  
anger  
sadness  
disgust

## Secondary emotions

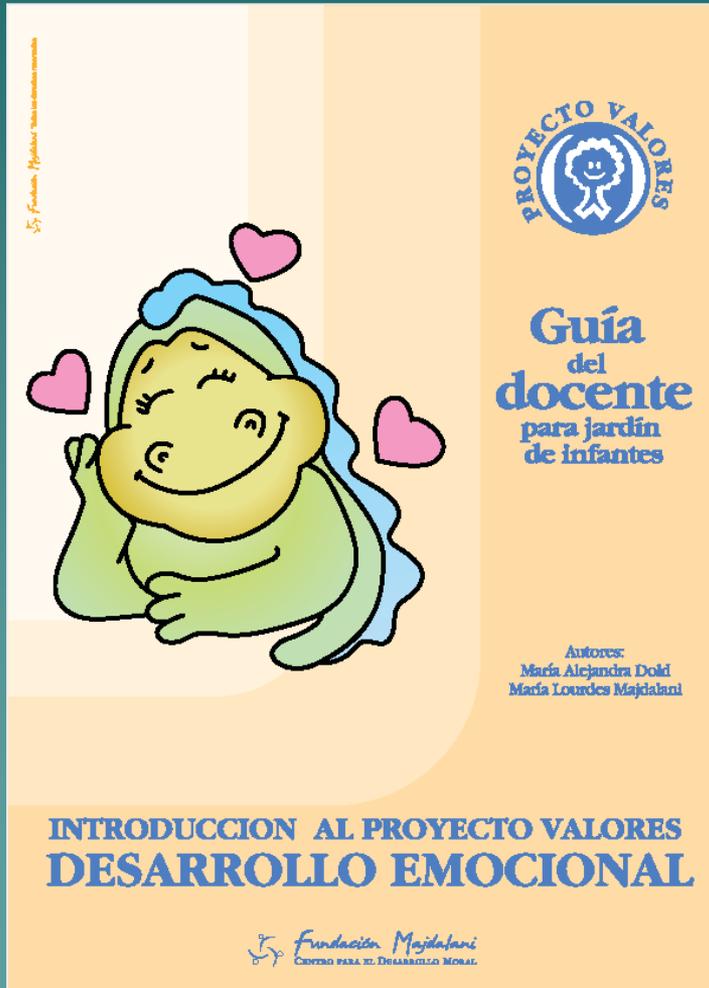
empathy  
pride  
shame  
guilt  
embarrassment  
envy





# Didactic material

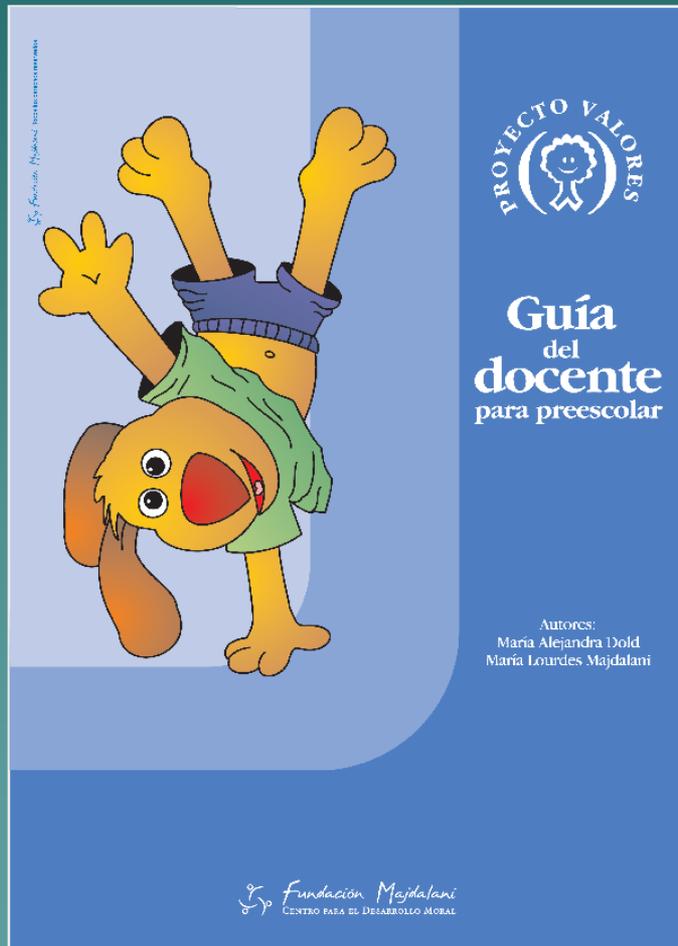
## Kindergarten 4



- Anger
- Sadness
- Fear
- Shame
- Guilt
- Anxiety
- Joy

# Didactic material

## Kindergarten 5



- Generosity
- Justice
- Solidarity
- Constancy
- Consideration

- Honesty
- Acceptance
- Gratitude
- Obedience
- Responsibility
- Patience
- Respect

# Didactic material

## 1° Grade



- Love
- Joy
- Gratitude
- Acceptance
- Obedience
- Order

# Didactic material

## 2° Grade



- Friendship
- Generosity
- Politeness
- Responsibility
- Patience
- Constancy

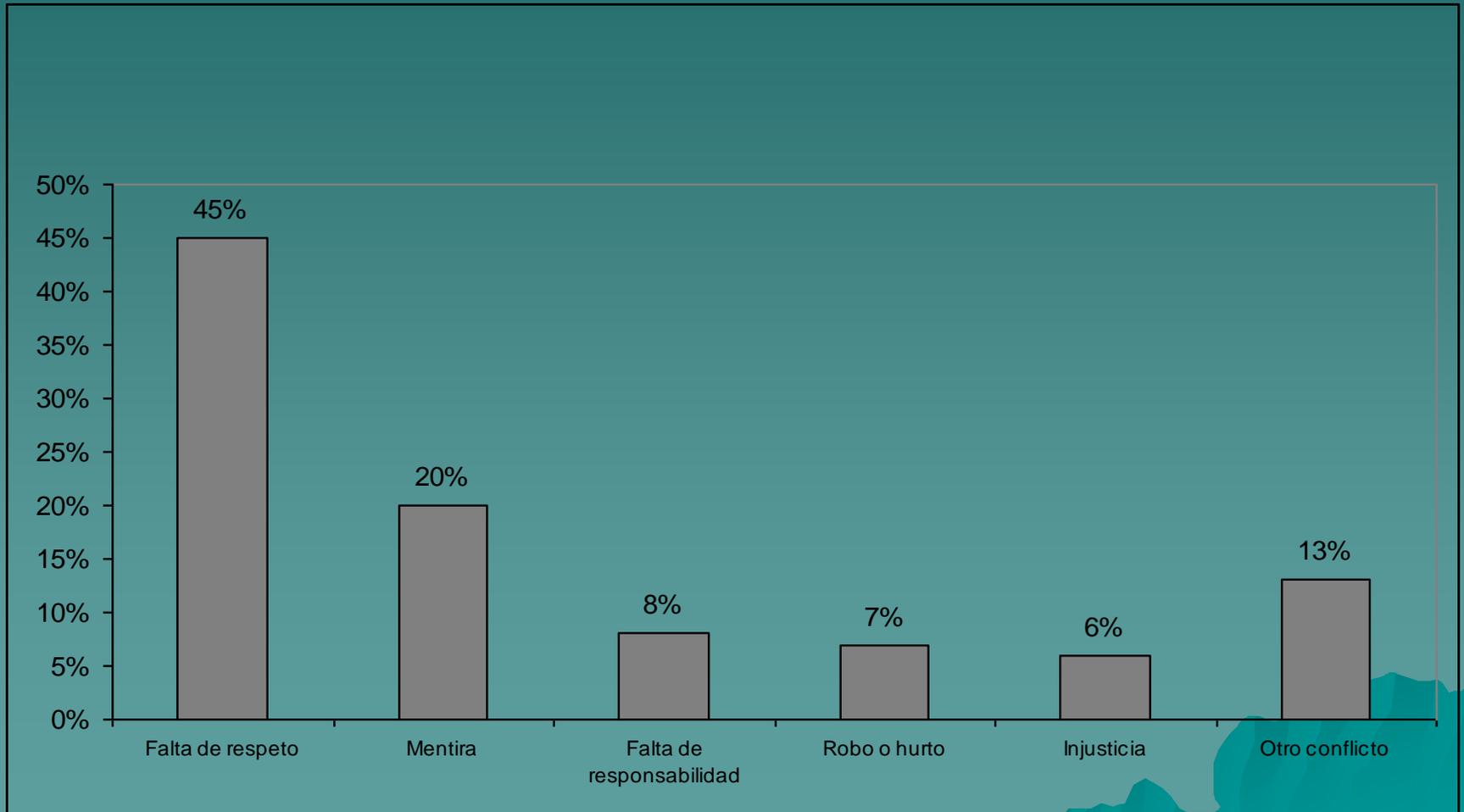
# Didactic material

## 3° Grade

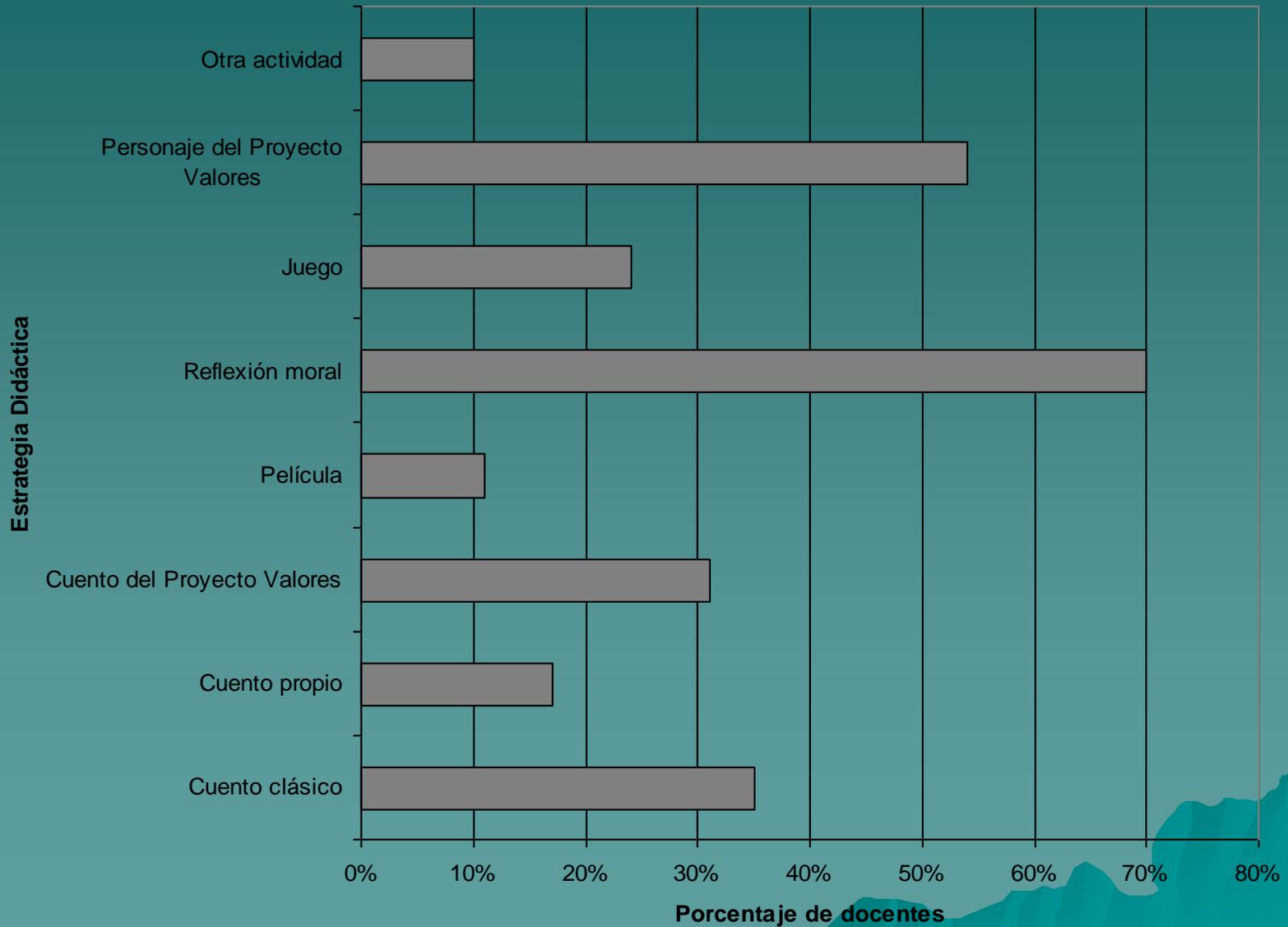


- Respect
- Consideration
- Solidarity
- Justice
- Honesty
- Patriotism

# Evaluation 2007 in Bariloche: Children's moral conflicts



# Teachers' strategies



# Evaluation 2008: Bariloche & Tierra del Fuego

- ◆ I: Moral conflicts
  - ◆ II: Positive experiences
- 

# EVALUATION I: MORAL CONFLICTS

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graph TD; A[EVALUATION I: MORAL CONFLICTS] --- B[Description of moral conflict]; A --- C[Teacher's intervention]; A --- D[Children's reaction]
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Description of  
moral conflict

Teacher's  
intervention

Children's  
reaction

# Description of moral conflict



# Conflict generator: Antisocial behavior

- ◆ Shouting
- ◆ Insulting
- ◆ Aggressive behavior
- ◆ Quarrelling
- ◆ Bothering
- ◆ Subduing
- ◆ Ignoring
- ◆ Desapproving / Mocking
- ◆ Rejecting / Excluding
- ◆ Threatening
- ◆ Lying
- ◆ Stealing
- ◆ No responsibility

# Teacher's intervention

## "Shame style":

- ◆ Judges child's person
- ◆ Focuses on moral rule
- ◆ Establishes punishment

## "Guilt Style":

- ◆ Judges child's conduct
- ◆ Focuses on harm
- ◆ Establishes consequence

# Children's reaction

## "Shame reaction":

- ◆ Looks down
- ◆ Eludes sight
- ◆ Redens face
- ◆ Shrinks body
- ◆ Is unable to speak
- ◆ Feels personal distress
- ◆ Gets away of victim

## "Guilt reaction":

- ◆ Looks up
- ◆ Looks for teacher
- ◆ Apologizes
- ◆ Shows empathy
- ◆ Repairs harm

# Results: 106 protocols - 2008

## Bariloche & Tierra del Fuego

- ◆ Qualitative description of conflict:
  - ◆ 23,6 % Aggressive behavior
  - ◆ 12,7 % Insulting
  - ◆ 11,8 % Quarrelling
  - ◆ 10,9 % No responsibility
- ◆ Conflict among:
  - ◆ 65,1 % among children
  - ◆ 17,9 % between children and teacher
  - ◆ 15,1 % among children and between children and teacher

# Results

- ◆ Conflict generator:
  - Aggressive behavior: 41,5 %
  - Shouting: 22,6 %
  - Quarrelling: 22,6 %
  - Insulting: 19,8 %
  - Bothering: 19,8 %
  - Desapoving / Mocking: 14,2 %
  - Subduing: 13,2 %
  - Ignoring: 12,3 %
  - Lying: 11,3 %
  - No responsibility: 10,4 %
  - Stealing: 8,5 %
  - Threatening: 7,5 %
  - Rejecting / Excluding: 4,7 %

# Results

## ◆ Teachers intervention

“Shame style”: items

Focus only on moral rules: 20,8 %

Leave children without support: 12,3 %

Punish children: 10,4 %

# Results

## ◆ Teachers intervention

“Guilt style”: items

Lead moral reflections: 34,9 %

Help children repair harm: 34 %

Lead perspective taking: 33 %

Talk about emotions: 32,1 %

# Results

## ◆ Children's reaction:

“Shame reaction”: items

Looks down: 24,5 %

Is unable to speak: 16 %

Eludes sight: 11,3 %

# Results

## ◆ Children's reaction:

“Guilt reaction”: items

Apologizes: 32,1 %

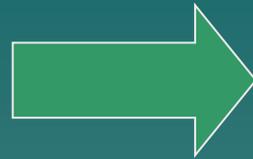
Looks for teacher: 18,9 %

Looks up: 13,2 %

# Questions

- ◆ Do we have a solid theoretical and practical framework on teachers' shame and guilt style?
- ◆ Do we have a solid theoretical and practical framework on shame and guilt reactions in children?
- ◆ Does teachers' intervention style cause or is related to children's emotional reaction?

◆ Teacher's guilt style



◆ Children's guilt reaction

◆ Teachers' shame style

◆ Children's shame reaction

# THANKS!!

Lula Majdalani

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[www.fundacionmajdalani.org](http://www.fundacionmajdalani.org)