Title of Abstract

A review of health literacy of children and young people: definitions, interpretations, and implications for future research and practice initiatives

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Brief Abstract

Based on findings from two independent systematic reviews of literature, this presentation aims to provide a critical overview of definitions and concepts of health literacy (HL) which target children and young people. The nature of HL is shaped by individualistic approaches in which skills to handle with health information in order to cope with situational tasks are emphasised. The critical analysis of definitions and interpretations reveals that functional purposes outweigh emancipatory ones. It is discussed whether current HL conceptualizations are tailored to (a) the target group and (b) the postulate that HL is a means of empowerment.