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Practices and Tools of Training in the Initial Training of Youth Workers

The linguistic practice of social workers is not a new practice since language constitutes one of its essential elements, whether it is a question of the educational relationship or of professional documents. Yet, the place of spoken and written language is rarely present, indeed, not present at all, in the vocational training of social workers. And so, a study conducted in cooperation with youth workers specialized in vocational training at the Institut du développement social de Haute-Normandie reveals not only contradictory attitudes about language in the teaching environment but also professional expectations and interrogations.

The Institut du développement social de Haute-Normandie as a training organization for social work decided to implement an approach to language in its initial training modules as well as in its permanent training, similar to that of eleven other regional training institutes for social work. This, in the socialization module for the initial training of specialized youth workers, sociolinguistics, occupies a place along side clinical psychology, education or sociology, depending on a precise training mechanism with a lecture, study section and group work—or self training—and specific didactic tools such as educative resources and self training tools.