

## Chapter 9

# CEREBRAL PALSY AND THEIR FAMILIES IN THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

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### INTRODUCTION

Cerebral Palsy (CP) is a group of permanent disorders in movement and posture development that occurs in the developing brain or newborn brain, is non-progressive, and causes activity limitation. CP is accompanied by visual disability, hearing loss, epilepsy, and speech disorders (Bax et al. 2005). Individuals with CP have a right to total participation in the family environment, social life, and educational environment like every individual. Thinking especially in terms of the regulations in educational environments, the base for the regulations that will be conducted for the children with CP is a requirement of the right to education (UNICEF, 2010). These rights require family-school-institutional cooperation for all students, preventive education, and health policies in extraordinary situations (CAST, 2018; UNICEF, 2010). For example, Coronavirus Disease (Covid-19) that seriously required the development of preventive and curative policies by countries and the World Health Organization after the first cases that had a world-shaking effect was reported in Wuhan, China, on December 31, 2019, first appeared in 2019. It was characterized as a pandemic by the World Health Organization on March 11, 2020 (WHO, 2020a). Coronavirus disease, which was expressed as a great pandemic, first threatened the health of every individual, but it also constituted a bigger risk for the children, people with disabilities, people with chronic diseases, and groups who live in disadvantaged areas in terms of hygiene (WHO, 2021). Children with CP became a part of this process (Brandenburg, Fogarty & Sieck, 2020), their existing needs increased, regulations were made in

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The findings of this study have been thought to contribute to the early childhood intervention services, educational regulations of the children with CP, conducting distance education services in special education, home-based plans with family participation. It is suggested to develop the quality of the personnel in the special education services of the children with CP, regulate the home-based special education services on the legal aspect.

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