

INFANT FEEDING CARE IN CHILD DAY CARE CENTERS

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INTRODUCTION

National and international literature is extensive when analyzing the importance of child feeding. This issue approached from several points of view, including the child day care centers context, catering for children from 0 to 7 years old. However, there is not much literature regarding caring for children feeding in infant education institution. Over the years, in my professional life, I have observed that institutions are meticulous when preparing menus and hygienic food handling in all stages of preparation and food distribution. Even in high-standard institutions I observed some facts that raised some concerns: food size and consistency, which can be a hazard if the child does not present the motor maturity to chew and cut. Moreover there were few healthy food choices (such as vegetables, which are usually offered but also hated). I would like to draw the attention to the fact that the day care centers deal with regular children, i.e. with no special needs. However, it is important to consider that regular children have specific needs according to their developmental stage. Their care needs to be pro-active, standardized and subject to measurements. Therefore, implications for nursing professional are paramount since care and its supervision are one of the nurse's roles.

BRAZILIAN DATA

At present, Brazil has 7,204,674 children from 0 to 7 years old (uncompleted), enrolled in IEs, that is, approximately on third of this population, according to preliminary data of Education Census, published in October 05, 2005 **. The national target is to reach almost the whole of this population. Health care of

these children is a domain of the National Health System (Sistema Único de Saúde – SUS). Assistance to feeding needs has several offered documents address the importance of meeting nutritional needs of children, but none of them described what by child feeding care in collective facilities.

PURPOSE

To review what has been published about child feeding care in child day care centers.

METHODOLOGY

This comparison will be performed according the evidence-based theoretical framework by means of a bibliographic and documental review.

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** According to <www.inep.gov.br/imprensa/noticias/censo/escolar/news05_10.htm> At 10 dez. 2005.

Recebido em: 04/10/2004

Aceito em: 05/03/2005

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