

Research Abstract

The Construction of Parental Training Packages for Quality Child Development

by

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This study aimed to construct and develop a handbook for quality child development consisting of four parental training packages. The packages vary according to the children's ages from newborn to one year old. Forty - four literate parents of such children were our sample. The instruments used in this study were the handbook, a questionnaire about the workshop conducted for these parents, a manual for children's activity recording, and a handbook evaluation questionnaire.

At the workshop, parents were invited to attend a discussion about the handbook so that the parents would be able to use the package with their children for a period of three months. After the three month period, they were once again invited to attend another meeting, starting with a keynote lecture. After the lecture, the parents were divided into four small groups according to the children's ages. Small group discussions with the researchers and in - depth interviews were conducted as part of the effort to improve the four packages.

It was found that fifty percent of the children in the sample were first - borns. The parents used the packages at approximately the same age as stated in each package.

Most parents found the packages beneficial to their children's development in various areas. About physical development, the parents of children in the age group of 4 - 6 months, 7 - 9 months, and 10 - 12 months thought the benefits were quite high, but the newborn - 3 month group about middle level. As for intelligence, all age groups agreed that the packages were very beneficial. In understanding and speaking, the parents thought they were very helpful and quite helpful. All groups thought so too about interaction between parents and children except the 10 - 12 month group who rated it about middle level. In the area of emotional development, they were widely different. The newborn - 3 month group's opinions were about middle level while the 4 - 6 month group's were equally divided between middle level and quite little. The 7 - 9 month group rated it as most beneficial while the 10 - 12 month group rated it as most and quite beneficial.

As for children's activities, none of the children could do all the activities during the first time. They could do only part of it. The 7 - 9 month group did the activities once or twice or more. A hundred percent of this group were quite interested in the activities. The other groups were rated between interested and quite interested.

In sum, most parents rated the handbook as quite beneficial and very beneficial and the children were quite interested in the activities.

Data gathered from parental records and group discussions were helpful in developing the handbook into its present form. It is more precise with its clear and easy to follow instructions, activities and illustrations. It is hoped that the handbook will be widely used and thus serve the purpose of contributing at least in part to quality child development.