

SUMMARY

Children in their preschool years of life could be affected and positively influenced by the level of nursery supervisors' knowledge and practice in toward health problems that commonly affect preschool children. Nursery supervisors is an instrument, for effective health care and the provision of continuing education program play an important role in enhancing and updating the knowledge and performance besides improving the quality of care given to children.

This study aimed to assess the child's needs in relation to care givers deficit needs of knowledge regarding different health aspect in the preschool period, design and implement a health education program according to caregivers needs deficit and evaluate the effect of the program on the caregivers and children.

A representative sample of caregivers was taken from five nursery schools in Benha namely nursery school of university, Dar el-Arkam, Ebn -Khaldan, Benha El-Hadetha and El-Eman Mohamed Abdou. The total number of them were 50 and dealing with 100 children (3-5 years).

The tools used were a questionnaire sheet which comprise the socio-demographic characteristics of the subjects and assessment for the

knowledge for preschool child, and observational check list for caregivers practices.

Education program: according to the findings of the exploratory phase, the caregivers' needs were determined. So general and specific objectives of the program were stated and the program content as well as teaching strategies were prepared.

The study showed that the care-givers' knowledge and practice regarding care of preschool was improved after the health education program. The important findings obtained from the study could be summarized as follows:

1. The mean age of caregivers was 24.6 ± 5.8 years regarding the educational level near to two third (62%) of them were middle education and near to one third were highly educated.
2. All personnel in the nursery school have no previous training .
3. The major percent were single and married while the minor percent were widowed and divorced.
4. The mean age of children was 3.9 ± 1.2 , more than half of them (54%) were female and 43% of them was first in ranking.
5. Regarding the behavioral problems among preschool children jealousy and aggression were the major percent while speech problems were the minor percent. Regarding management of the

behavioral problems reward and guidance stated by caregivers in minor percent (20% and 18%) before the program compared to (76% and 84%) after the program. While (42%) of them stated punishment as a way of behavioral problems management before the program and (10%) after the program. On the other hand about (96%) gave love and security after the program. .

6. There was a significant improvement regarding the caregivers' knowledge about health promotion of preschool children.
7. The mean practice scores of caregivers about measuring vital signs and first aids was improved significantly after the program implementation.
8. The caregivers whose age (20-25 years) had a satisfactory knowledge than whose age (35+ years) while the highest percent of knowledge after the program were the highly educated caregivers.
9. It was obvious that the single and married caregivers has a satisfactory knowledge than the widowed and divorced.
10. A major percent of caregivers whose years of experiences were (3- < 7 years) had a satisfactory knowledge after the program.

The study concluded that the education program had a good effect on improving the caregivers' knowledge and practices regarding the health promotion of preschool children.

The study suggested the following recommendations:

- 1- Develop classes for all caregivers' (Nursery supervisors) to teach them how to deal with preschool children.
- 2- Providing caregivers' with teaching activities and continuous training about physical and psychological needs of preschool children to guide them on meeting these needs and assure the quality of care rendered to children in the nursery school.
- 3- Continuous in-service educational program must be developed to prepare all personnel working in nursery schools as regards health promotion of preschool children.
- 4- Caregivers' in the nursery school must be carefully chosen and be evaluated prior to appointment.
- 5- Improving caregivers' knowledge and practice toward care of preschool children through pamphlets, posters, and Arabic booklets.
- 6- A periodic training for emergency procedures and first aid should be conducted, including first aid for choking, rescue breathing and

other life threatening emergencies such as bleeding, breathing difficulties, poisoning and head injury are necessary.

7- A manual guide for accident prevention and first aid should be provided to all nursery schools.

8- Further studies should be made to improve the caregivers' knowledge and practice regarding the care of preschool children in the nursery school.