

Conceptual Application Of Child Health Assessment Interaction Model (CHAIM) In Assessment Toddler's Behavioral Problems

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Abstract: Child health assessment and interaction model is developed to assess the mother –infant interaction with the environment. Toddlers' behavior is influenced by the caregivers and the environment in which they live. Here this model is used to assess the behavioral problems of toddlers. Positive aspects in the interaction of child ,caregiver and environment such as availability of grand parents to look after the child, adequate family income, ability to interact with children of same age group and neighbors produces healthy and growth promoting behavior in the child whereas negative aspects like care by nonparents, attending day care or play school ,congested home or day care environment , health problems of caregiver result in unhealthy or growth hindering behavior of the child like development various behavioral problems.

Keywords: Child, Caregiver, Environment, Interaction

I. INTRODUCTION

Conceptual model or theoretical models are used in nursing research provides an organizing structure for the study. Nurses utilize various theories such as Self care deficit theory, Newman's systems theory and Pender's health promotion model based on the study variables. Child health assessment interaction model is used to assess the primary relationship between the mother and child, specifically designed for children below three years of age. Children learn through daily experiences based on the support they received at the time of distress. A child's experience is characterized by getting the help needed when distressed; develop trust needed to move on to further developmental challenges. If the child experiences any negative emotions it may result in behavior problems. Here the study subjects are toddlers this model the best suits for the study.

II. CHILD HEALTH ASSESSMENT INTERACTION MODEL

Child health assessment interaction model" (CHAIM) was developed by Kathryn E Barnard in the year 1994. It is mainly used to assess the primary relationship between mother and child. Children learn through daily experiences based on the help they received during stressful situations. A child, whose experience is characterized by getting the help needed when distressed, develops the trust needed to move on to further developmental challenges. This model explains about the interaction of caregiver, environment and child and its effects on child's behavior

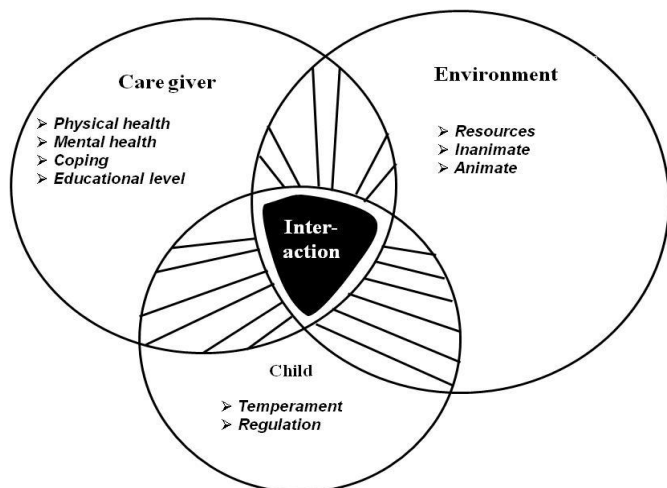


Figure 1: Child health assessment interaction model

This model consists of mainly four components

- ✓ Environment
- ✓ Caregiver
- ✓ Child
- ✓ Interaction

ENVIRONMENT

The important concepts related to the environment are resources, inanimate and animate. Resources in the environment represent what is available to support or hinder the relationship including other people and finances. The inanimate environment involves the nonsocial aspects that can impact the senses such as space, materials, toys, sounds, richness or deprivation. The animate environment represents the social aspects of the caregiver.

CAREGIVER

Concepts related to caregiver are physical health, mental health, coping and educational status of the parent

CHILD

Child is identified as not older than age three. The concepts related to child are temperament and regulation. Temperament is the behavioral characteristics of toddler and child's ability to be self calming. Child's ability to evoke desired responses from caregivers refers to regulation.

INTERACTION

In interaction sensitivity to cues involves the appropriateness of caregiver's response to cues initiated by the child that fosters emotional growth and cognitive growth.

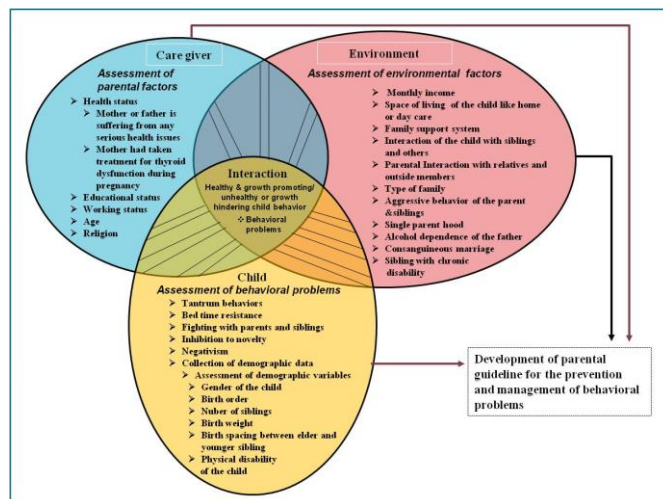


Figure 2: Application of child health assessment interaction model for assessment toddlers' behavioral problems

Figure 2 provides a modified conceptual model of assessment of behavioral problems and its determinants among toddlers and develops a parental guideline based on the identified needs using child health assessment and interaction model constructs.

Environmental factors comprises of type of family, place of living of the child like home or play school, family support system like availability of the grant parents to look after the child, interaction of child with children of same age and neighbors, type of family, aggressive behavior of the parent and sibling broken family or single parenthood, consanguineous marriage, sibling with chronic disability, sufficient family income to meet the needs of the child and nuclear family is considered as positive factors in the environment which promotes growth promoting behavior in the child.

Aspects related to caregiver are their health status, treatment for thyroid dysfunction during pregnancy, educational status, working status, age and religion. Physical or mental health problems of caregiver prevent them to provide appropriate care and support to their children when it is required. Hence it may threaten the normal development of the child and results in behavioral problems. While assessing the behavioral problems of toddlers these factors need to be incorporated.

Third component in the child health assessment interaction model is the child. Child is assessed based on the demographic variables and behavioral problems. Demographic variables assessed are gender, birth order of the child, number of siblings, birth weight of the child and physical disability of he child. Behavioral problems include tantrum behaviors, bedtime resistance, fighting with parents and siblings, negativism, destroy toys and other objects and screaming. Certain demographic variables such as low birth weight, decreased spacing between siblings, and physical disability of the child may trigger behavioral problems in children.

Interaction is the fourth component in this model. Interaction of all the three components results in healthy or growth promoting or unhealthy or growth hindering behaviors. While assessing a toddler, it is vital to consider all the factors which can positively or negatively influence the child's behavior. The presence of such factors hinders the normal growth of the child and result in behavioral problems among toddlers. Based on the identified problems the researcher can prepare a parental guideline for the prevention and management of behavioral problems in toddlers.

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