

Perception of daycare center assistants and auxiliaries about the most recurring health injuries in children

Percepção de assistentes e auxiliares de creches acerca dos agravos à saúde mais recorrentes em crianças

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ABSTRACT

The objective of the present study was to identify the diseases that affect the health of children who uses daycare centers in a municipality in Goiás inland, and to point out the conducts performed by the collaborators in early childhood education when detecting them. This is a quantitative, descriptive research, performed in public daycare centers. It was selected a probabilistic sample of daycare centers representing 50% of the institutions. The study population were the assistants and educational auxiliaries, because they are the employees who act directly in the children care. The data collection occurred in only one-step, by signing the 'Free and Informed Consent Term' (TCLE) and applying a semi-structured questionnaire, with open and closed questions. The CEP approved the study with the Opinion of N.º 3.612.776. The Microsoft Excel software, version 2010 transcribed and stored the data. Then, descriptive analyses of the data were performed by using absolute frequency distribution (N) and relative frequency (%). The presence of such diseases was observed: influenza (90%), viruses (74%) and allergies (40%). The present study evidenced that there is an adequate and responsible conduct of the daycare center collaborators when they observe any problems in the children, registering the occurrences in a proper form for this purpose, they communicate the direction of the institution, as well as the parents and guardians, and, administer medication by updated medical prescription. It was concluded that it is of extremely importance the daycare centers maintain control regarding the existence and prevalence of diseases in enrolled and effective children, in order to create strategies for reducing them through health promotion, both for the children and for the collaborators themselves.

Keywords: Daycare Centers. Integral assistance to child health. Risk factor.

RESUMO

O objetivo do presente estudo foi identificar os agravos que acometem à saúde de crianças usuárias de creches de um município do interior de Goiás, e apontar as condutas realizadas pelas colaboradoras em educação infantil ao detectá-los. Trata-se de uma pesquisa quantitativa, descritiva, realizada em creches públicas. Foi selecionada uma amostra probabilística de creches, representando 50% das instituições. A população do estudo foram as assistentes e auxiliares educativos, por serem os funcionários que atuam diretamente no cuidado com as crianças. A coleta de dados ocorreu em apenas uma etapa, mediante assinatura do Termo de Consentimento Livre e Esclarecido (TCLE) e aplicação de um questionário semiestruturado, com perguntas abertas e fechadas. O estudo foi aprovado pelo CEP com o parecer de N.º: 3.612.776. Os dados foram transcritos e armazenado no software Microsoft Excel, versão 2010. Em seguida, foram realizadas análises descritivas dos dados mediante uso de distribuição de frequência absoluta (N) e relativa (%). Foi constatada a presença dos agravos: gripe (90%), viroses (74%) e alergias (40%). O presente estudo evidenciou que existe uma conduta adequada e responsável das colaboradoras da creche pesquisada quando constatarem quaisquer agravos nas crianças, registrando as ocorrências em formulário próprio para este fim, comunicam a direção da instituição, bem como os pais e responsáveis, e, administram medicamento mediante prescrição médica atualizada. Concluiu-se que é de suma importância as creches manterem o controle quanto a existência e prevalência de doenças das crianças matriculadas e efetivas, a fim de criar estratégias para redução das mesmas através da promoção de saúde, tanto para as crianças quanto para os próprios colaboradores.

Palavras-chave: Assistência integral à saúde da criança. Creches. Fator de risco.

INTRODUCTION

During the period of Industrial Revolution in the 18th century, significant changes occurred in all spheres of society, including in the family spheres. Among these changes, the fact of the woman who was only housewife and caregiver, she became also maintainer and co-responsible for the family expenses. Thus, the daycare centers were instituted in order to meet the demands of childcare that before were only maternal attributes. At first, these institutions were characterized as charitable and assistance and had as purpose to take care of the needy children (Rocha, Serrão, Feyes & Pereira, 2011; Faria & Wirch, 2014; Silva, Santos, Wesp, Silva & Bispo, 2017).

However, in the late 1930s, much of the society identified the daycare centers as an inadequate establishment to receive children during the parents' work period. It was a site understood as a “*necessary evil*”, coming from a moral, economic misfit and a product of industrialization and urbanization. In these spaces only the care with the first childhood were prioritized, considered by the government as irrelevant, so they were denied to support these establishments that were maintained by charity (Magalhães, 2017).

In Brazil, since the 1970s, the daycare centers were considered as developing institutions, however, marked by the state suppression, philanthropy and with the absence of pedagogical orientation, some facts that hindered the understanding that they were areas of support, protection and assistance for low-income children. During the 80s, a movement named “Fight Movement for Daycare Centers” emerged in the state of São Paulo, which influenced the public power to increase the number of daycare centers and pre-schools maintained by the State and private daycare centers convened with the municipal, state and federal governments (Silva & Francischini, 2012; Gomes & Costa, 2013; Magalhães, 2017).

From the promulgation of the 1988 Constitution, children from zero to six years were assured to the right to education, considered fundamental for the child development. This new paradigm was incorporated into the pre-schools and daycare centers, changing the vision about the child development and the family functions (Costa & Oliveira, 2011; Medeiros, Nogueira & Barroso, 2012; Nascimento, 2012).

Due to the urban growth, many families sought the public and/or private daycare centers so that they would care and maintain their children during the period they were working. Over time there was an increase in the number of women in the labor market, they were no longer available to perform only the domestic tasks and children care, making it necessary to increase the number of institutions focused on the childhood education (Costa & Oliveira, 2011; Dantas, 2015; Piccinini, Polli, Bortolini, Martins, & Lopes, 2016).

However, the permanence of the child population from six months to four years indoors, and agglomerates, receiving collective care, increased the risks of occurrence to health problems such as: acute respiratory infection, flu, cold, bronchiolite, scabies, diarrhea, conjunctivitis, hepatitis A and B, among others (Gelatti et al., 2013). According to Pedraza, Queiroz and Sales (2012), children under two years who coexisted in daycare centers or schools used to get sick more frequently.

Most of the professionals, who act in daycare centers, are not empowered to act with health problems that can affect the children. Therefore, it is necessary to empower these individuals through educational actions as: guidelines on hygiene, sanitary education, basic sanitation, feeding and health education. In order to allow them to understand about the main health problems that can occur in the first childhood, considering that in this period the immune system of the children is fragile and more susceptible to contracting diseases (Gelatti et al., 2013; Oliveira, Santos & Silva, 2012).

Through these premises, the present research had as objective to identify the diseases that affect the health of children who use daycare centers of a municipality in Goiás inland, and to point the conducts performed by the collaborators in child education when detecting them.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The present study is a quantitative and descriptive research, performed in a municipality in the state of Goiás inland. The municipality has 12 public daycare centers and one philanthropic. A probabilistic sample of daycare centers was selected, representing 50% of the institutions. To ensure the representativeness of the regions and the diversity of collaborators and children, the daycare centers were ordered by draw according to regions: north (n=1), south (n=1), east (n=1), west (n=1) and center-west (n=2). The number of employees per daycare unit was also considered, with the objective of obtaining a distribution as uniform as possible.

The board of collaborators working in the daycare centers sum 164 general employees (directors and cleaning and maintenance collaborators), 54 educational assistants and 67 educational auxiliaries. Regarding the children enrolled in the period from August 5 to September 31, 2019, these sums a total of 458 children. They were included in the study, according to the inclusion criteria, assistants and educational auxiliaries – because they are the employees who act directly in the children care, who worked for more than a year in the institution, who agreed to participate in the research and signed the Free and Informed Consent Term (TCLE).

The quantitative of employees expected to compose the sample calculation totalized 72 assistants and educational auxiliaries. The sample calculation was based on the total number of employees acting directly in the children care (n=121), considering 5% of sample estimate error and 90% confidence level. Following the inclusion criteria, the final sample was composed of 42 employees.

The data collection occurred in only one-step, in the month of September 2019. After the employees are properly clarified about the research, they could sign the TCLE and then we applied a semi-structured questionnaire, with open and closed questions. The questionnaire was applied in the recreational time of the daycare centers: 09:30 to 10:00 and 15:30 to 16:00. The questionnaire questions were divided into three sections. The first part aimed a characterization of the sociodemographic profile of the assistants and daycare auxiliaries. The second part of the questionnaire sought to investigate what are the main diseases that affected the children from zero to four years who frequented the daycare centers. Finally, the third part sought to investigate the actions performed by the collaborators in child education through the verification of the diseases.

Microsoft Excel software, version 2010 transcribed and stored the data. Then, descriptive analyses of the data were performed by using absolute frequency distribution (N) and relative frequency (%). To evaluate the categories association of each variable were employed the Pearson Chi-square tests (X^2), and the Yates correction for the variables with only two categories. The statistical significance level adopted in the analyses was 5% ($p < 0.05$).

The research was performed respecting the principles of Bioethics, based on the Resolution 466/12 of the National Health Council, which disposes about the guidelines and regulatory norms of research involving humans. The Research Ethics Committee of the Evangelical University Goiás, UniEvangélica, GO, through the Opinion of N.º 3.612.776 approved the project.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The research was composed of 42 participants, of the female gender, who acted in six daycare centers researched, respecting the inclusion criteria. All categories of the variables in study were significantly associated and correlated with significant X^2 values at 5% level (Table 1, 3 and 4).

In the sociodemographic profile, it was verified that 62% of the assistants and auxiliaries declared themselves black, sum between black and browns. There was a variation in the age range of the interviewees, however, 36% were between 41 and 50 years. Regarding the level of education, it was observed that 43% of the interviewees had the complete higher education, followed by the incomplete higher education (36%) (Table 1).

Table 1
Sociodemographic profile of the collaborators in child education of six daycare centers located in the municipality of Goianésia, GO, 2019.

Variables	N	(%)	X ²	"p" value
Race/Color				
White	16	38%		
Black	1	2%	21	<0.001
Brown	25	60%		
Age				
18 - 30 years	14	33%		
31- 40 years	12	29%		
41 -50 years	15	36%	11.90	0.008
> 50 years	1	2%		
Education				
Incomplete higher education	0	0%		
Complete higher education	9	21%		
Incomplete higher education	15	36%	59.72	<0.001
Complete higher education	18	43%		
Type of contract				
Effective	21	50%		
Intern	14	33%	7	0.030
Contract	7	17%		
Work period at the institution				
01 - 05 years	24	57%		
06 - 15 years	16	38%	17.71	<0.001
16 - 25 years	2	5%		

Source: The authors.

Notes. N: Absolute frequency, %: Relative frequency, X²: chi-square.

Of the participants, are 50% effective employees of the institution and the other 50% are interns or temporary contract. Regarding the working time in the institution, 57% are acting between 1 and 5 years (Table 1). The collaborators employing bond time directly influences the functioning of an institution, consequently the monitoring of routines and protocols, and even the child's welfare. When asking about what were the diseases that most affected the children in the age range of 6 months to 4 years, the collaborators in child education cited; flu (90%), viruses (74%) and allergies (40%) (Table 2). The information "others" resulted in 7% of relative frequency, presenting diseases that arise with lower prevalence, such as; pneumonia, intolerances, pharyngitis, among others.

Table 2
Main diseases found by the collaborators in child education of six daycare centers located in the municipality of Goianésia, GO, 2019.

Diseases	N	(%)
Influenza (Flu)	38	90%
Viruses	31	74%
Allergies	17	40%
Foot, hand and mouth	3	7%
Fever	3	7%
Contact dermatitis	3	7%
Ear infection	2	5%
Others	3	7%

Source: The authors.

Notes. N: Absolute frequency, %: Relative frequency.

Costa, Morais, Pinto and Neves (2016), in research performed with 149 children of daycare centers, in the municipalities of Diamantina and Itamarandiba /MG, in 2011, found that half (50%) of the children had infectious diseases with highlight for symptoms such as: fever (27%), diarrhea or fever (8%) and associated diarrhea (7%), chronic diseases as allergy (23%) and asthma or bronchitis (13%).

Pedraza et al. (2012), in a systematic review about the main infectious diseases in Brazilian preschool children assisted in daycare centers, found 55% of causes being as of enteroparasitic origin. These infections have been associated with factors such as the agglomeration, direct contact among the children or coexistence with the collaborators themselves. The diffusion of diseases can also be reflection of the lack of hygienization of hands, routine among the children to carry objects to mouth and/or fecal incontinence.

In addition, the respiratory infections of upper and lower airways such as: cold, pharyngitis, sinusitis, bronchitis, bronchiolitis, pneumonias, acute media otitis and bacterial infection, are also responsible for much of the cases of diseases that affects the children in the daycare centers (Nesti & Goldbaum, 2007).

The direct contact, most often by the hands, is evaluated as main transmission medium of the majority of pediatric infections, thus the main prevention conduct is the correct washing of the hands, and can generate great impact on public health (Nesti & Goldbaum, 2007).

When questioned about taking a course of action upon finding harm to children's health, 62% of the interviewees declare that they communicate to the parents or guardians. Regarding the percentage of employees who use notes form of the children's diseases - plan notebook and reports of the diseases, 71% said to do them (Table 3).

Table 3
 Actions performed by determining diseases by the collaborators in child education of six daycare centers located in the municipality of Goianésia, GO, 2019.

Variables	N	(%)	X²	"p" values
Conduct				
Temperature measurement	7	11%		
Communicate the Direction	14	22%		
Notify parents or guardians	40	62%	*	—
Request assistance from SAMU	2	3%		
Activate the guardianship council	1	2%		
Medication				
Up-to-date medical prescription	36	86%	21.42	<0.001
Never	6	14%		
Form for notes				
Yes	30	71%	7.71	0.0054
No	12	29%		
Type				
Plan and report notebook	30	71%		

Source: The authors.

Notes. *The interviewer could answer one or more category. N: Absolute frequency, %: Relative frequency, X²: chi-square.

Sarubbi, Muylaert, Gallo and Gallo (2014), describe that the information about the recurrent diseases in the daycare centers and the actions performed through these need to be described and constantly consulted. Such attitude is important so that there is the control over the periodicity with which certain diseases affect the children of the daycare centers as well as the severity of them. Besides, these data can assist in the control and prevention of diseases in this environment. It is indispensable to emphasize and motivate the use of forms and/or worksheets for this control in order to assist in the prevention, promotion and fight against the prevalent diseases in children.

When questioned whether they used some kind of medication when they detect some health problem with the child, 86% of the participants confirmed to use only by medical prescription updates (Table 3).

When they were questioned whether they received training to deal with sick children, 79% of the interviewees said they received continued training and lectures offered in the institution, both offered by the Municipal Education Secretariat of the studied municipality (Table 4). During the survey, employees showed interest in receiving follow-up from the health teams and expressed willingness to participate in other training courses.

Table 4

Training received by the collaborators in child education of six daycare centers located in the municipality of Goianésia, GO, 2019.

Variables	N	(%)	X²	"p" value
Training				
Yes	33	79%	13.71	<0.001
No	9	21%		
Which ones				
Continuing training by the Department of Education	26	81%	8.257	0.004
Lectures at the institution	6	19%		

Source: The authors.

Notes. N: Absolute frequency, %: relative frequency, X²: chi-square.

It is worth noting that some participants reported feeling of insecurity about the care and about the necessary referrals, they should perform when confronting some kind of disease in the children, besides expressing the need for training courses and/or even frequent lectures. They also mentioned the need for support of the Community Health Agents (ACS), performing contact with the participation of the children's parents or guardians, in order to be empowered to prevent any diseases and/or the spread of these.

Faria and Wichr (2014), in a study conducted with 30 professionals, in six public daycare centers, in the municipality of Diamantina, MG, evidenced the importance of the preventive practices to promote the health and the quality of life. They considered that the children do not have autonomy to care for themselves, and are supported by law regarding the right to receive support and specific care during the first years of life, being responsibility of all (parents, guardians, professionals of the daycare and caregivers) perform prevention and care actions.

It is noteworthy that the children immune system, because they are in development, is fragile, being more likely to acquire opportunistic diseases. Thus, the guidelines provided to the family through the educators have as objective to inform about the growth and normal development, as well as to direct educational and prevention practices that reach parents and children to obtain and maintenance of health (Oliveira et al., 2012).

In this educational context, although it is not a routine the presence of the nurse in the team of daycare centers, this professional has shown to be of important reference about the care present in the health-education interface. When investigating different elements as adaptation of the child and the family to the institution, diet, sleep and rest, accidents and diseases prevention, health promotion, as well as monitoring the growth and physical and emotional development, contextualizing them in a proposal of care to the child in daycare centers and pre-schools (Oliveira et al., 2012; Silva et al., 2017; Galvão, 2018).

CONCLUSION

In this study, it was possible to show adequate and responsible collaborators conduct at the daycare centers researched, when they observe any diseases in the children. Registering the occurrences in a proper form for this purpose, communicate the institution direction as well as the parents and guardians, and yet, if there is need of the child to ingest some medication, this is administered when it has updated medical prescription.

It was also concluded that it is of extremely importance the daycare centers to maintain the control regarding the existence and prevalence of diseases of the children enrolled and effective, in order to create strategies for reducing them through health promotion, both for the children and for the collaborators themselves. In this sense, the nurse is one of the professionals in the health area most empowered to act in the children, parents and collaborators health-education interface, since the same already acts with educational strategies in the primary care and yet, has scientific technical knowledge to act in the health-disease process, especially in cases of urgency and emergency.

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