

ORIGINAL PAPER

The Effect that Care Given to Preschool Children by Different Individuals has on the Quality of Life and Self-Care Skills

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Abstract

Background; The purpose of this study is to investigate the effect that care given to preschool children by different individuals has on the quality of life and self-care skills.

Methods; Data were collected between November 2008 and February 2009 from mothers of 255 children; 85 children being cared for by their mothers, 85 children being cared for by baby-sitters, and 85 children being cared for in a nursery. An identification form, defining the descriptive characteristics of mother, father, and child; the KINDL Quality of Life Questionnaire, and the Self-Care Skills Control List were used to gather data for this study.

Results; In this study, the scores of children being cared for in a nursery for the sub-scales "Dressing," "Personal Care" skills, and the "Self-Esteem" of the Quality of Life Questionnaire were significantly higher in comparison to children being cared for by their mothers and by baby-sitters ($p < 0.05$). There was a statistically significant difference between the type of care given to children and the score means of the Self-care Skills Control List, excluding eating skills ($p < 0.05$).

Conclusions; Taking into consideration that some of the score means related to the quality of life and self-care skills of children attending nursery are higher, it is suggested that the number of organisations that provide preschool education should be increased, healthcare personnel should train families about quality care, and experienced and certified baby-sitters should be preferred for child care.

Key words: Child Care, Life Quality, Self Care, Family, Care-giver