P65 Factors Influencing Childcare Providers' Engagement of Parents Regarding Child Nutrition

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Background (Background, Rationale, Prior Research, and/or Theory): The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, parents, childcare directors, and health consultants agree that nutrition education is instrumental to improving children's and families' nutrition knowledge and eating behavior (Benjamin Neelon & Briley, 2011; Gupta et al., 2005). More recent research, however, has demonstrated that childcare providers often report challenges to engaging parents in topics about their children's nutrition (Lyn et al., 2014; Stage et al., 2017).

Objective: To determine the factors influencing childcare providers' engagement with parents regarding child nutrition in childcare centers (CCCs) and family childcare homes (FCCHs).

Study Design, Setting, Participants, Intervention: This was a cross-sectional, quantitative study on CCCs and FCCHs in Nebraska. CCC directors ($n = 337$) and FCCH providers ($n = 1,153$) completed self-administered surveys.

Outcome Measures and Analysis: The dependent variable was parent engagement. Fifteen variables were examined as predictors for parent engagement—barriers to communication, participation in Go Nutrition and Physical Self-Assessment in Child Care (Go NAP SACC), National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) accreditation, participation in Quality Ratings and Improvement Systems (QRIS), feeding practices, professional development regarding child nutrition, and child-provider ratio. Structural equation modeling was conducted to examine the relation between variables for CCCs and for FCCHs.

Results: For CCC's, NAEYC accreditation, providers' barriers regarding parents' cultural beliefs about food that are not always consistent with healthy eating, parents not liking the taste of healthy foods, and parents prioritizing other food related topics (allergies or children's food intake) significantly predicted parent engagement. For FCCHs, participation in Go NAP SACC, perceiving parents as busy, not wanting to offend parents, and practicing family style dining were significantly related to parent engagement. For both CCCs and FCCHs, professional development regarding child nutrition was related to parent engagement.

Conclusions and Implications: Focusing professional development on childcare contexts and addressing providers' barriers may improve parent engagement.

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P66 Family Nutrition Education Improves Healthy Eating and Preferences, but Children and Adults Differ in Behavioral Changes

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Objective: Nutrition education and cooking interventions are used to promote healthy habits among children and their families. The purpose of this research is to evaluate the effect of a Family Cooking Class (FCC) on participant vegetable consumption, attitudes, and behaviors.

Target Audience: Families with children, grades 3–8, in schools where at least 80% of students were eligible for free or reduced priced lunch totaling 1,375 children and 757 adults over two years.

Theory, Prior Research, Rationale: FCC is grounded in the socio-ecological model and designed to increase knowledge and skills about healthy cooking and eating in the whole family unit.

Description: FCC is composed of six 2-hour lessons incorporating nutrition education and hands-on cooking and is facilitated by a trained instructor. Nutrition education is provided on healthy ingredient substitutions and balanced meal planning while the cooking component focuses on cost saving methods and recipes. Families work together each lesson to cook 2–4 healthy dishes which are eaten together at the end of the class.

Evaluation: Evaluation of child and adult outcomes were conducted using a quasi-experimental pre-post survey design between 2015 and 2017. A convenience sample of 108 students and 90 adults were included in analysis, representing 24 FCCs from 5 markets. FCC was found to significantly improve child vegetable liking ($P = .001$), exposure ($P < .001$), and consumption ($P < .001$) as well as adult vegetable consumption ($P = .001$). Children also reported increased cooking self-efficacy ($P < .001$), frequency cooking at home ($P = .005$), and telling family about healthy eating ($P = .002$). Adults agreed that their child's cooking skills were improved after programming ($P < .001$).

Conclusions and Implications: FCC shows promise in improving family vegetable consumption which can lead to long term positive health outcomes. However, adults' data did not support all child-reported behavioral outcomes, suggesting that adults may have different perception than children of program efficacy.

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P67 Farm-to-Clinician: A Culinary Medicine Approach to Healthcare Through a Food Systems Lens

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Objective: To educate future healthcare professionals about the importance of nutrition in the prevention and treatment of disease, utilizing an experiential approach emphasizing local food systems.

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