
Working on the National System: The French Experience

Sizun J^a, Bouvard C^b, Zana E^c, Zores C^d, Kuhn P^e, Casper C^f, Zaoui C^g, Thiriez G^h, Audéoud F^h, Guillois Bⁱ

^aBrest; ^bSOS Prema, ^cParis Port-Royal; ^dStrasbourg, ^eToulouse, ^fValenciennes, ^gBesançon, ^hGrenoble, ⁱCaen

NIDCAP is theory-guided, relationship-based and **system-oriented**. According to Gilkerson & Als, “Changes in the larger system affect the dynamics within the smaller unit”.¹ Therefore it appears important to act at a national level to support NIDCAP dissemination.

Aims/Purpose

To describe strategies developed at a national level in France during the last decade to support developmental care and NIDCAP implementation.

Methods

The goals were:

1. To create guidelines on family-centered developmental care;
2. To disseminate evidence-based data;
3. To train future neonatologists to the basis of early intervention;
4. To create a special partnership with national parents’ groups
5. To act at a political level to change national laws.

Results/Findings

The Groupe de Reflexion sur l'Environnement En Néonatalogie (GREEN), a special interest group from the Société Française de Neonatalogie (SFN), including two parents groups (SOS prema and CIANE), is publishing texts on the parents' role, the optimal NICU environment, postural support, skin to skin.

- A French book "Soins de développement en néonatalogie: de la recherche à la pratique" edited in 2014² is the reference for professionals and trainees.
- A one-day session on developmental care has been integrated in the curriculum of pediatric and neonatal training
- NIDCAP professionals participated in the "Assises de la prématurité", a special event created by the SFN, SOS prema

and politicians and in the study group "prematurity and vulnerable newborns" at the Assemblée Nationale.

- NIDCAP professionals are participating in the training of local and national parents' representatives.

Conclusion

Active participation of neonatologists, implication of the national scientific society, close collaboration with parents group and contacts with politicians have created a positive climate for NIDCAP dissemination and implementation in France.

References

1. Gilkerson L, Als H. Role of reflective process in the implementation of developmentally supportive care in the intensive care nursery. *Infants and Young Children*. 1995;7:20–28.
2. Sizun J, Guillois B, Casper C, Thiriez T, Kuhn P. Soins de développement en période néonatale - De la recherche à la pratique 2014, Publisher LAVOISIER MSP (In French)

The Gold Standard for Excellence in Newborn Individualized Developmental Care

What All Newborn Infants and Their Families Deserve

Newborn Individualized Developmental Care and Assessment Program (NIDCAP)

The Newborn Individualized Developmental Care and Assessment Program (NIDCAP), originated in 1984 by Heideise Als, PhD, is the only comprehensive, family centered, evidence-based approach to newborn developmental care. NIDCAP focuses on adapting the newborn intensive care nursery to the unique neurodevelopmental strengths and goals of each newborn cared for in this medical setting. These adaptations encompass the physical environment and its components, as well as, the care and treatment provided for the infant and his or her family, their life-long nurturers and supporters.

Assessment of Preterm Infants' Behavior (APIB)

The Assessment of Preterm Infants' Behavior (APIB) (Als et al., 1982) is a comprehensive and systematic research based neurobehavioral approach for the assessment of preterm and fullterm newborns. The APIB provides an invaluable diagnostic resource for the advanced level clinician in support of developmental care provision in a nursery.

NIDCAP Nursery Program

The NIDCAP Nursery Program provides a comprehensive resource for the self- evaluation by a nursery system of its strengths and goals for integration of NIDCAP principles into all aspects of their functioning. Highly attuned implementation of NIDCAP care for infants and their families, as well as for the staff, in a developmentally supportive environment is a goal as well as a process. External review and validation by the NFI may be sought when a nursery feels it has achieved this distinction. Nurseries that have achieved NIDCAP Nursery certification serve as a model and an inspiration to others. For information on the nursery self-assessment resources as well as the certification process and its eligibility requirements, please see: www.nidcap.org; and/or contact Rodd E. Hedlund, MEd, NIDCAP Nursery Program Director at: nidcapnurserydirector@nidcap.org or 785-841-5440.