



Global Perspective of Developmental Care – Chile

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The Republic of Chile is a South American country occupying a long, narrow strip of land between the Andes to the east and the Pacific Ocean to the west. Chile is among South America's most economically and socially stable and prosperous nations, and a member of Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) with a high-income economy and high living standards. Recently there have been demonstrations denouncing social inequality.



In 2017 there were 219,186 births which is approximately 600 newborn babies born every day. Approximately half of them are male. Forty-two percent were born in Santiago, the capital of Chile. The child mortality rate is 7.1% with 41.2% occurring in the first day of life and 36% between 1-28 days. The neonatal mortality rate fell around 5% in one year from 2016 to 2017. The Total Fertility rate was just 1.6 in 2017 below average generational rate. At present, there are many immigrants, with around 10% of births occurring in this group.

Chile has a mixed public and private health system with approximately 70% of the population using the Public Health System, with the remaining 30% accessing the Private Health System. Neonatal intensive care occurs in both public and private hospitals. Most private neonatal intensive care units (NICU) have 24 hour free access for parents. Unfortunately this does not happen in the public system where there is a lack of staff.

Nevertheless, I have been working with different professionals (Midwives, OT, therapist) training and making changes.

The Clinica Las Condes (CLC) where I work, is a private hospital where parents can stay the whole day with their babies, and siblings and grandparents are also welcome.

We have many preterm babies many of whom are twins since this is a referral hospital for infertility treatments and high risk pregnancies.

Since 2008 we have been working with the NIDCAP concept in our Unit. Parents are encouraged to provide the care for their babies and we have an active skin to skin program.

The Preterm Parents Corporation, named NEOVIDAS, has been working with us to support the preterm parents at the CLC & Hospital Santiago Oriente and is open to offer help to other parents. They work actively with the Health Minister and

have connections to parents abroad. Each November they organize different activities for families and professionals to celebrate World Prematurity Day.

Every year I work with midwives, training new people and doing refresher courses for the other staff. For the past five years Ninoska Cancino, midwife (NIDCAP Professional) and I have been working with different Universities, Pediatric Societies and Nurse's Colleges providing training programs in Developmental Care within the country. Most of the health care professionals who have attended these programs have expressed an interest in foundational programs for developmental care such as Family and Infant Neurodevelopmental Education (FINE).

The Clinica Las Condes is unfortunately not a NIDCAP Training Center but we work with this concept. Our unit is the only one in Chile that has certified NIDCAP Professionals on staff.

If requests for NIDCAP Training are received I recommend for them to apply to Argentina or Spain for training. Presently, we are working together with other Spanish speaking trainers who can help us spread the NIDCAP Philosophy.



Clinica Las Condes



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