



Service Priorities and Programmes Electronic Presentations

Convention ID: 190

Submitting author: Ms Michelle KOO

Post title: Advanced Practice Nurse, Caritas Medical Centre

Implementation of "Bright Kids" Program for Pre-school Aged Children in Developmental Disabilities Unit

Koo KY (1)

(1) Developmental Disabilities Unit, Caritas Medical Centre

Keywords:

Pre-school training program

Developmental Disabilities Unit

Introduction

Developmental Disabilities Unit (DDU) is the only institute caring for children with severe physical and cognitive impairment; and complex medical conditions. When children reach age six, they will receive special education at the adjacent Caritas Lok Yan School. But for kids below six, there is no formal training except limited physiotherapy and occupational therapy sessions. Since the first few years of life is a critical learning period for a child, a "Bright Kids" Program was designed for this group of pre-school children living in DDU.

Objectives

Learning through games to provide warm, happy, healthy, funny, comfort life for children; and to attain all-round development in 5 domains of gross motor, fine motor, social, cognitive and communication.

Methodology

"Bright Kids" Program consists of ten one-hour sessions per week except school holidays. Lessons include music, craft, drawing, physical, self-care training, massage, and outdoor activities. We assign a corner in ward with colorful and stimulating decorations and various types of multisensory toys. A series of training programs were launched beforehand teaching the staff how to play with the children effectively. Video and audio training materials are standardized so that anyone can use it without difficulty. Reassessment of children is carried out every 3 months for progress and modification of program. A handbook is designed each child to record personal profile, individual assessment, progress and evaluation. Parent's participation is encouraged as it promotes bonding and empowers their caring skills. Staff and parent satisfaction survey will be conducted to explore their view towards the program.

Result

"Bright Kids" Program had been implemented in DDU since April, 2016. Total 16 children participated in this program. The staff training program was completed with attendance rate of 75-90%. 90% staff reflected the training program was effective. Skill audit on massage showed 100% compliance rate. We also attained the parent's

support, 80% of them showed interest to attend the program from the survey and 5 parents actually had joined the program. By the 3-monthly evaluation, we found that 90% of children showed improvement especially on social aspect and communication, e.g. increased attention span; increased response to the surrounding environment; more cheerful and enjoyed the lessons; more facial expressions; more babbling and less involuntary movement. Although some children did not show much improvement on motor aspects due to their physical limitation, negative behaviors such as crying and frowning were reduced. Four children transited well to Lok Yan School in September 2016 from “Bright Kids” program.