LOCALIZATION OF THE TACTILE STIMULI; DOES IT DIFFER BETWEEN INSTITUTIONALIZED CHILDREN AND FAMILY RAISED CHILDREN?

Ersa ALAN ÖZTÜRK 1, Burcu Semin AKEL 2
1Hacettepe University
2İstanbul Kültür University

INTRODUCTION

Studies have emphasized that family environment has a critical importance in providing stimulation for development, support and spiritual attention that the child needs as it is the first environment in which the child meets and interacts after birth (1). Despite family like environment in governmental houses, we thought children may still lack of sensory stimulation and have some problems in sensory area. Our aim is to investigate localization of tactile stimuli skills between children raised by their birth family and children who lives in the children houses founded by government.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Data was collected from children aged between 4 to 10 years old. Children lives in governmental houses, were included from houses located in Istanbul. Family raised children were included from different neighborhoods in Istanbul and Rize. Localization of tactile stimuli was investigated with sub-test of the Ayres Southern California Sensory Integration Test. The Independent Samples T Test was used to calculate the difference between two groups of collected data.

RESULTS

30 children raised by their birth parents and 31 children who live in governmental houses has been included to study. Localization of tactile stimuli was statistically differed between two groups (p=0.004). Children raised by their birth families scored higher then children who live in governmental houses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Mean</th>
<th>Std. Dev.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Children in governmental houses</td>
<td>78,11</td>
<td>12,99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children raised by their birth family</td>
<td>85,83</td>
<td>5,17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DISCUSSION-CONCLUSION

Localization of tactile stimuli skill is necessary for activities like buttoning a button or adjusting clothes (2). However children in governmental houses were healthy, they had problems in localization of tactile stimuli. Lack of stimulations in child’s first environment can cause fails at child’s activities of daily living. According to this findings governmental care should provide occupational therapy in Turkey.

BİBLİOGRAPHY


KEYWORDS: Institutionalized Children, Participation, Sensory Integration, Community Based Rehabilitation, Occupational Therapy