

THE EFFECT OF AN EDUCATION PROGRAM ON KNOWLEDGE AND PREVENTIVE BEHAVIOR FOR MOTHER OF CHILDREN AT RISK FOR ASTHMA

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Purpose: This research aimed to examine the effect of an education program on knowledge and preventive behavior for mothers of children at risk for asthma.

Design: a quasi – experimental study

Methods: The sample of this study consisted of mothers of children (aged 0 – 5 years) at risk for asthma who took their children to receive medical care at the outpatient department and emergency room of Pangsilathong Hospital, Thailand. The sample of 60 was divided into two groups of 30; namely, the experimental group which received the education program and the control group which received the standard health education from staff nurses. Data were collected using a questionnaire asking about knowledge and preventive behavior before intervention, after the education program and at 4 weeks follow up after the intervention. The difference in knowledge and preventive behavior of mothers of children at risk for asthma between groups was analyzed with ANCOVA.

Main Findings: The results revealed that the mean score of knowledge and preventive behavior of mothers in the experimental group after the education program was significantly higher than that in the control group ($p < .001$) and the mean score of knowledge and preventive behavior of mothers in the experimental group at 4 weeks after the education program was higher than that in the control group, with a statistical significance ($p < .001$).

Conclusion and Recommendations: These findings suggest that nurses should continue providing the education program about asthma prevention for at risk children via video compact disk and handbook. This will help to improve knowledge and preventive behavior of mothers and caregivers for these children.

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