



AB019. Early intervention strategies in developmental and behavioral disorders

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Abstract: Developmental and behavioral problems are the emerging morbidity in childhood. Early social/emotional development and physical health provide the foundation upon which cognitive and language skills develop. Early childhood is considered a critical but often vulnerable period in a child's development where early identification and intervention can be crucial for improving children's developmental outcomes. There is an urgent and substantial need to identify as early as possible those infants and toddlers in need of services to ensure that intervention is provided when the developing brain is most capable of

change. Neural circuits, which create the foundation for learning, behavior and health, are most flexible or "plastic" (Neuroplasticity) during the first three years of life. Over time, they become increasingly difficult to change. Early childhood intervention is the process of providing specialised support and services for infants and young children with developmental delays or disabilities, and their families, in order to promote development, well-being and community participation. It consists of identifying a baby who already has a handicapping condition or is at a potential risk for developing one, and then providing services to lessen the effects of that condition. The term encompasses a range of stimulation and training activities over and above the minimal care traditionally provided for all babies. Intervention is likely to be more effective and less expensive when it is provided earlier in life rather than later. The services can be Preventive, Curative, Supportive or Remedial. It's not a drug, it's not a vaccine and it's not a device. It is a group of therapists working together, solving problems and enhancing capabilities. Let's strive hard to find the ability in their disability.

Keywords: Neuroplasticity; early intervention; developmental and behavioural problems; emerging morbidity

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