



EARLY CARE IN THE HOSPITAL SETTING

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The manual *Atención temprana en el ámbito hospitalario* [Early care in the hospital setting] is a work published by Pirámide, coordinated by Jessica Piñero, Technical Director of the Fundación Salud Infantil de Elche [Elche Children's Health Foundation] and Associate Lecturer at the University of Murcia, Julio Pérez-López, Lecturer of Psychology and Education at the University of Murcia, Fernando Vargas Torcal, Head of Paediatrics of the Hospital General Universitario in Elche and Ana Belen Sempere Candela, Technical Coordinator of the Fundación Salud Infantil.

It is a book that brings together a number of professional experiences in the field of early intra-hospital care in our country. It also offers a theoretical introduction on the rationale and context of this type of intervention in the population of premature infants.

Over 400 pages long, the publication is aimed at health workers such as neonatologists, nurses, psychologists, speech therapists, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, social workers, educators, teachers, psychologists, students and professionals from different disciplines involved in the prevention of developmental delays for children who are in a situation of biological/social risk and/or pathology.

In recent years, the rate of premature births has increased significantly, possibly due to improvements in techniques of neonatology, obstetrics and pharmacology. This situation has led to a number of implications for the short, medium and long term neurodevelopment of the

child and an increasing demand for information and training by professionals and families. Learning about the detection of childhood and family disturbances, together with the knowledge of effective techniques to stimulate the child's development, has a more than favourable influence in reducing the negative repercussions in all areas.

Therefore, this manual aims to bring together the theoretical and practical contributions of specialists in each of the disciplines covered. This knowledge is essential for updating the theoretical knowledge of the professionals involved and for improving the resources for practical intervention at the professional level, related to the most common developmental disorders or delays in the population of children born in a situation of biological risk.

The first ten chapters form the theoretical framework and review the necessary contents for acquiring the basic notions of typical development and behaviour of children born at biological risk. These chapters also reveal the importance of early intervention from the moment of birth. In the remaining chapters, eminently practical, the intervention carried out in different Spanish hospitals is presented in detail and the treatment protocols that are used are imparted to the reader.

This book is a fundamental tool for practitioners of medicine, psychology, physiotherapy and speech therapy who work with premature infants, as well as for healthcare professionals in general. The practical orientation of the manual is notable and it provides a way for professionals to update their knowledge, as well as serving as a guide to intervention in this population.

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