

Spring 2012 Semester Final Abstract for David Swift

Swift, David, "Public Child Daycare Services in Ciudad Quesada, Costa Rica: Utilization of the CEN-CINAI API Program and the Role in Early Childhood Development." Advisor: Dr. Freddy Ulate Mora. The Colorado College. 2012. 52pp.

The study conducted is to further describe the CEN-CINAI (early child development program to promote overall physical and mental development for high social risk children living at or below the poverty line) of Costa Rica. It describes the role that the program API (Attention and Protection of Children) in promoting nutritional development in ratios of weight/age, weight/height, height/age during the year of 2011. As well as describing the changes in motor function, motor gauge, language, cognitive, sociability, and habit development during the year of 2011. Data is gathered from two sources: 1) through site visits to six CEN in the Ciudad Quesada region to gather data from individual child cases, totaling 88 children with nutritional development data and 62 children with mental development data. 2) Looking at the regional basic data of 2010 and 2011 from the already existing data files in the CEN-CINAI headquarters of Ciudad Quesada. In addition to development data, the annual finance statements of five CEN are used in order to compare funding differences with CEN development rates during the year 2011. There was a significant difference between the CEN in mean scores of mental development rates and in mean ratio scores for nutritional development. The rest of the information gathered for the study was through qualitative methods that described observations of the inner workings of the CENs visited.