

Infant malnutrition, development rate and its relation to the environment: a pilot study Desnutrición infantil, coeficiente de desarrollo y su relación con el medio ambiente: un estudio piloto.

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The socio-cultural factors that might be influencing the normal psychomotor development of the undernourished infant are studied. The sample consisted of 32 mother-infant dyads: 16 having normal DQ (Group A) and 16 having a below normal DQ (Group B) according to Bailey's Test applied to infants who entered a Nutritional Recuperation Center. Results showed that there were some differences in the infants' backgrounds: infants of Group A were the product of a wished-for pregnancy (p less than .05), and were separated less from their mother's side (p less than .007) than was the case in Group B. No differences were found in the socio-cultural and demographic background of the mothers. The infants' external environment was different in aspects observed within the neighborhood: there were fewer negative aspects in Group A than in Group B (p less than .003) and more positive in Group A than in B (p less than .001). The infant's internal environment as related to the mother was also different.