

NCAFS: Nursing Child Assessment Feeding Scales

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Background and Aim : In early 1970`s the division of nursing of the United States Public Health Service contracted with Dr. Kathryn Barnard at the University of Washington`s school of Nursing to study ways of measuring the health and care giving environment of infants and young children . Since then the Nursing Child Assessment Feeding Scale (NCAFS) tools have been widely used in clinical practice and research studies .The ultimate goal of NCAFS is to determine predictors that could identify children at risk for later developmental problems, as early as possible. The objective of the current work is to introduce NCAFS.

Discussion and Conclusions NCAFS is a series of 7-point rating scales that tapped interactive features such as reinforcement patterns, positive and negative affect, sensitivity to the child`s cues, clarity of child cues, child state, and child responsiveness to simulation. Only individuals who are reliable in observing the behaviors contained in the scales should use the score to make a statement about the dyadic interaction.

Innovation and Importance: The base of character and personality forms in the first year of life, therefore recognition of problems in mother and child interaction and preventing development of such problems are of vital importance for the baby`s life in the future. Up to now, no activity has been done in order to establish the NCAFS or similar assessment scales in some developing countries with growing population including Iran.

Suggestions: It is suggested that the health education authority in Iran, introduces NCAST as a part of regular education curriculum of nurses, so that the nurse would be able to communicate with the nursing infant.