

MOTHERS' VIEWS OF CHILD FEEDING AND HEALTH

Why Do Mothers' Views on Child Feeding and Health Matter?

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EXPLANATORY MODELS OF CHILDHOOD OBESITY AMONG MOTHERS IN THE LOWER RIO GRAND VALLEY, Elizabeth Reifsnider, PhD, RN, UTHSCSA

FEEDING PRACTICES OF MOTHERS IN A NURSE HOME VISITATION PROGRAM, Sharon Karp, MSN, RN, Vanderbilt University

FAMILY BELIEFS ABOUT EARLY INFANT FEEDING IN THE RURAL SOUTHEAST UNITED STATES, Sharon Barton, PhD, RN, University of Kentucky

MOTHERS' EXPLANATORY MODELS FOR DENTAL CARIES IN LOW INCOME MEXICAN AMERICAN CHILDREN, Diana Beckmann-Mendez, MSN, RN, FNP, UTHSCSA

Brief Description:

This symposium will approach child nutrition and child health from a unique perspective: that of the child's mother. The papers in this symposium represent researchers from three institutions, study subjects from Anglo, African American, and Mexican American ethnicities, and research conducted in Appalachia, San Antonio, the Lower Rio Grand Valley on the border with Mexico, and in rural Tennessee and Georgia. Similar themes are seen in all the papers, but unique variations also emerge based on the cultural backgrounds of the participants. If nurses are to address child nutrition and child health to promote and protect health and prevent disease, we must understand the child's early life experiences and how those are shaped by the child's mother.

Objectives:

1. Describe the themes across all studies that reflect participants' views on breastfeeding and early infant feeding.
2. Identify what body sizes of children are preferred by mothers and how those body sizes compare to CDC recommendations.
3. Discuss participants' views on oral health and its importance to overall child health.
4. Describe actions that can be taken by nurses to address the overweight epidemic among young children.