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**Role of Family Physician in Detection of Risk Factors Affecting
Early Childhood Development**

Thesis

Submitted for partial fulfillment of the requirement for

M.Sc. Degree in the Family Medicine

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1. The first part of the document is a list of the names of the persons who have been appointed to the various positions of the Board of Directors of the Corporation.

محضر

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توطئة للحصول على درجة الماجستير / المكتوبة
في علم النبات

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بعد فحص الرسالة بواسطة كل عضو منفردا وكثافة تقارير منظرية لكل منهم اتفقت اللجنة
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Abstract

As a proportion of the total population, the pediatric population has been increasing over the decades. Being family physicians we have intimate knowledge of patient's medical, functional, and social problems. Thus, we are in a unique position to assist the child and detect the risk factors that affecting early childhood development. One of the main roles of family physician is preventive medicine and identification of risk factors as well as early detection of the diseases and this approach will minimize the cost of medical services to a great extend.

This study aimed to promote child development to improve the quality of life for our children in the future. The specific objects were to assess child development in the first eighteen months of life, and to identify factors affecting early child development. The study covered 150 children less than 18 months of age attending the Family Healthy Unit for immunization. We find that; Female children have better development in the first 6 months; this situation is reversed by the end of first year and onwards. Prematurity, low birth weight and larger number of children in the family are significant risk factors on child development.

Breast feeding, rapid response to child needs when crying, stimulating activities during feeding the child and giving different types of toys specially moving and build up toys are factors having good impact on child development. According to results our recommendations are; Program for early detection of developmental delay through screening of children attending PHC and family medicine unit. Development of program for medical staff members in PHC and family medicine unit. Maternal stimulation for promoting early child development. Give more attention to antenatal care as important factor that affect child development especially for prematurity and LBW. Provide pediatric ICU suitable for all cases that need emergency care.

Key words: Child Growth and development, assessment of child development, Factors affecting child development, and Role of family physician.

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