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Abstract Submission Form – Papers

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Proposed title of paper: Improving moral sensitivity.

Ethics training as part of an overweight prevention programme for Youth Health Care workers .

Abstract with 3 clearly stated objectives in 250 words:

Overweight and obesity are major health problems in western countries. Prevention ideally starts during childhood, so a lot of studies take place in Youth Health Care (YHC) Centres. However, strategies for promoting healthy behaviour among parents and their young children raise ethical issues, as such strategies aim to influence value judgements of parents concerning health, weight, welfare, and child rearing.

From an ethical perspective, parental autonomy should be taken seriously and strategies to change attitudes and basic values of parents might be disrespectful if YHC workers are insensitive to the moral tensions. Tensions between value assumptions among YHC workers and parents may occur at various levels. A basic assumption in prevention programs is that overweight is unhealthy and detrimental to wellbeing. In certain non-western populations, however, the idea is not uncommon that for young children, weight is a sign of welfare, hence also a sign of good care. Moreover, in many groups in society, health is given less priority over other values, than YHC workers would like to see.

For successful and morally responsible preventive interventions, it is necessary that YHC workers are able to do their work in a respectful way. As in all health promotion activities, there is a tension between promoting healthy behaviour of clients and respect for their autonomy. This tension is even stronger if interventions aim at influencing practices of child rearing.

I want to present my experiences with an ethics training as part of an overweight prevention programme and show how one can aim to improve the sensitivity of YHC workers for such ethical issues.

If you have or will publish on this topic, please cite reference:

Groentetuintjes en gevulde koeken

Een ethiektraining in de praktijk

in: Tijdschrift voor Gezondheidszorg en Ethiek, jaargang 19 - 3 - 2009, pp 64-68

Are you planning to or will you be willing to submit a poster along with your paper?

Yes No