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SIRINAT TINIKUL: A COMPARATIVE STUDY IN THE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF PREMATURE INFANTS BETWEEN THE GROUPS OF CONTROL AND TREATMENT UNDER THE MULTI-MODALITIES SENSORY STIMULATION PROGRAM.THESIS ADVISORS:JARIYA WITTAYASOOPORN,D.N.S., NITTAYA KOTCHABHAKDI, M.D., LAMYONG RUSMEEMALA, M.Ed., 146 p. ISBN 974-664-924-8

The purpose of this quasi-experimental research was to compare the growth and development of premature infants in the control group and the treatment group under the multi-modalities sensory stimulation program based on conceptual framework of the synactive theory of development. The selective sampling were 44 premature infants in the Premature Infant Unit at Queen Sirikit National Institute of Child Health, and Special Care Nursery at Ramathibodi Hospital. Out of the total, 19 formed the control group who received only standard routine care, 25 formed the treatment group who received both standard routine care and multi-modalities sensory stimulation program. Neonatal Behavioral Assessment Scale (NBAS) was used for evaluating the development of premature infants. Statistical analysis and t-test was used at the end of study.

The results showed three main outcomes. Firstly, the development of infants in the treatment group was more advanced than the control group particularly in social interaction, motor system, state organization, state regulation, autonomic system and supplementary items. Secondly, for the growth rate, there was no significant difference showed by statistics between the two groups. Thirdly, there was no significant statistical difference between the two groups is physiological changes such as heart rate, respiration rate and oxygen saturation. Thus, this program should be provided regularly to premature infants because it enhances the development and positive response to the environment of infants.