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NARAUMON PICHAIPANICH : EFFECTS OF CAREGIVER PREPARATION ON SEPARATION ANXIETY IN HOSPITALIZED CHILDREN AND CAREGIVERS. THESIS ADVISORS: WILAI LEESUWAN, M.Ed., JARIYA WITTAYA-SOOPORN, DNS. 101 P. ISBN 974-663-367-8

The purpose of this quasi-experimental research was to determine the effects of caregiver preparation on separation anxiety in hospitalized children and caregivers. Selective sampling was used to choose 60 pairs of 2-5 year old hospitalized children and their caregivers between April and July, 1999 in two settings: the Medicine ward and Ears-Eyes-Nose-Throat ward at Queen Sirikit National Institute of Children's Health, Thailand. They were separated into two groups, control (n=30) and experimental (n=30) by matching age, sex, and diagnosis of hospitalized children. The control group did not receive caregiver preparation, while the experimental group received caregiver preparation by the researcher. According to the caregiver preparation scheme and caregiver preparation guideline, each caregiver was approached three times, for 20-30 minutes on the first day of admission. The caregiver was consulted and it was suggested that they should follow-up with preparation sessions of 10-15 minutes, 2 times on the second and third days after admission. The Children's Separation Reaction and Maternal Separation Anxiety Scale (MSAS: Subscales 1 and 2) were used for assessing separation anxiety in hospitalized children and caregivers in the afternoon on the first and third days.

The results of this study indicated that children's separation anxiety and caregiver's separation anxiety in the experimental group, were significantly lower than in the group that did not receive caregiver preparation ($p<0.05$). Thus, the effects of caregiver preparation could reduce separation anxiety in 2-5 year old hospitalized children and caregivers.