

# DE LA SALLE UNIVERSITY

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## ABSTRACT

The study's aim was to present data on the reactions of Filipino preschoolers to intrusive procedures as reflected in their play behavior. It sought to answer the following questions: (1) How do four to six year-old hospitalized preschool Filipino children interpret intrusive procedures; (2) What attitudes do four to six year-old hospitalized Filipino children tend to show toward hospital personnel who administer intrusive procedures; (3) What methods do four to six year-old hospitalized Filipino children use to cope with their feelings about intrusive procedures; and lastly, (4) Are four to six year-old hospitalized Filipino children able to use clinical equipments in play to express their feelings about intrusive procedures?

The study made use of a multi-method approach, particularly the phenomenological case study and participant observation method. The subjects were purposively chosen from the children confined at the Manila Sanitarium and Hospital. Only five children met the criteria at the time of the study. They were given the opportunity to play in a series of play interview: one in the hospital during confinement and two others at their homes, a week after their discharge and again two weeks after hospitalization.

Data gathered were presented in a descriptive form which included some excerpts of the verbalizations of the children. These data were analyzed through the use of the modified coding system of Erikson and through content analysis.

The major findings of this study were the following: (1) Children who were hospitalized did not show any form of hostility and there was no verbalization of their feelings. This was because it was the first time the children played with the "play lady" and expectedly, shyness and a bit of timidity were expected; (2) During the second play interview, the subjects were able to relate and verbalize what they felt while in the hospital. There were also signs of hostility showing that the subjects were now more at ease and relaxed with the "play lady". (3) The children's plays were spontaneous and uninhibited, and they again related their hospital experiences and included some of their make-believe fantasies. Based on the results, the researchers conclude the following: (1) Hospitalized children interpret intrusive procedures as threats to their body intactness; (2) Preschoolers who were hospitalized dislike nurses because they are the



usual hospital personnel who administer intrusive procedures; (3) Hospitalized preschoolers used several coping mechanisms to cope with their feelings toward intrusive procedures. They were repression, projection, aggression, displacement, identification and fantasy; and lastly, (4) Hospitalized preschoolers were able to express their feelings toward intrusive procedures through play with toys. The following recommendations were given: (1) Nurses and other hospital personnel should be sympathetic in their dealings with children; (2) Play therapy should be included in the hospital care program to help children; and lastly, (3) To replicate this study using a different set of criteria such as differing the age bracket, comparing boys with girls or comparing hospitalized with non-hospitalized.

