

# Feeding disorders and prematurity- how to meet the challenges



# Diagnosis

- The diagnosis of feeding behavior disorders is considered when a baby or child at different stages of infancy and early childhood has difficulties establishing regular feeding patterns-that is, when the child doesn't regulate his feeding according to the physiological feeling of hunger or fullness.

DC:0-3



**70%**

# What's eating

- Basic need
- Interaction <sup>\*</sup>  
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- Culture
- Sensory experience

# Children and their parents :what they tell us

# challenges

- An example: 13 years old girl <sup>\*</sup><sub>—</sub>

# Effects on interaction: children

parallel eating  
experiences

stressor: from mazing to crisis

concentration and learning

feeling of being different

how the environment understands the child and

how the child understands the environment

# Effects on interaction: parents

- Tiredness
- Loneliness
- Overfocusing
- Insecurity, helplessness
- Guilt
- Psychological stress
- Feeling like one's not managing the parenting role
- Vast feeling of being tied up

- Feeding is not only feeding but the beginning of a relation  
(Winnicott)

# Transactional model

- Changes in the behavior are the result of a series of interchanges among individuals within a shared system following specifiable regulatory principles

The child has the power to influence the parents from birth.

Child individual characteristics means a lot for the way parents handle the child

- Parents way to meet the child means a lot for outcomes

# At NICU

- Kangaroo care
- Nutritive & Non-nutritive sucking
- Techniques for comforting
- Positive experience around the face and mouth
- Little Marys plan
- Family will be followed up

# Meet the child

- To invite
- Tempo/ pace
- Individual shaped methods
- To tolerate/ accept

# Do I dare?.....

- The child and the broccoli \*  
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# Meet the family

- Parent and close caring people in a new learning process
- Group sessions
- Videotape
- Meet others parents in the same situation
- Association. E.g.:Knappen (Norway)

# Some methods

- marte meo
- sensorial disinhibition
- play
- cognitive therapy
- kindergarten –other children as models
- oral-motor skills

# Using marte meo

- A little girl: 5 years old <sup>\*</sup><sub>—</sub>

# A good transaction

- A little girl :1 years old <sup>\*</sup><sub>—</sub>