

3

Workshops on Caring for Children with Special Needs and Their Families

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Applicable principle

Principle 9: A commitment to promoting sustainability through education

1. Overview of Workshops

At the Faculty of Nursing, Iwate Prefectural University, we hold workshop twice a year by incorporating the opinions of families who are raising children with special needs, as well as the opinions of medical professionals and social workers who are involved in the care of such children and families in Iwate Prefecture. The purpose of these workshops is to provide an opportunity for families and supporters to exchange opinions, understand the situation of children and families and each other's care giving situation, and think about how to improve care for children with special needs and their families.



Secretariat members of the workshops

- (Medical long-term care facilities for children with special needs)
Nurses, doctors, nursery teachers, life support workers, speech therapists, and so on
- (Visiting nursing station) visiting nurses
- (Daytime temporary support service/After-school day-care centers)
Managers, nurses, nursery teachers, counselors
- (Iwate Medical University Hospital) NICU/outpatient nurses
- (Nursery school) nursery teachers, nurses

3. Comments from Participants (excerpt from questionnaire)

- I had an opportunity to learn about the activities at hospitals and facilities as well as the opinions of parents who are actually raising children with special needs, which made me think about the current situation and issues in Iwate.
- I could learn about the thoughts and wishes of local supporters and families, that's why it was a good opportunity for me to think about what kind of care my facilities can provide and what I can do to help them.
- Not only did I learn about services for children with special needs and their families, but I also learned about the current state of society from the perspective of the families of children requiring medical care.
- I realized the need to create a system that allows children with special needs and their families to live safely and securely.
- It is very important to have a horizontal connection that allows us to appeal together, and I thought that we need a system that can reliably deliver “compelling voices”.

2. Workshop in Practice

In 2021, due to the spread of COVID-19, we held online workshops and exchanged opinions on the current situation of facilities which provide medical care for children and the state of children and families, and shared each other's thoughts.

(1) Theme of the workshop: To support the lives of children and families

(2) Offering topics

1st (July)

- Visiting nurse (visiting nursing station)
- Physiotherapist (day service for children)
- Dedicated counseling support staff who is also a nurse (medical long-term care facilities for children with special needs)

2nd (February)

- Secretariat
- Professor (Department of Pediatrics, Iwate Medical University School of Medicine)
- Pediatrician (Iwate Kenritsu Ryoiku Center)

(3) Participants of the workshop:

- Families raising children with special needs



Flyers of the workshops