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## A Standardized Training Program for Professionals Working in University Based Child Protection Centers in Turkey

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### Abstract

The University Based Child Protection Centers (UBCPC) were founded in 7 universities of different provinces in Turkey from 2006 to 2012. The mission of these centers is to provide a multidisciplinary approach to abused children as well as carry out preventive studies, research and advocacy work. UBCPC's are engaged in prevention activities via family training programs, youth activities, improving risk screening at child health care clinics and providing intervention when needed.

The UBCPC model has been a unique development in the history of child protection in Turkey. Child Protection Units (CPU), housed in the hospital of faculty of medicine, provide diagnostic and therapeutic services to abused children. These units function via interdisciplinary collaboration among forensic medicine, pediatrics, pediatric surgery, child and adolescent psychiatry, clinical psychology, nursing and social work. This service-based activity is supported by multiple faculties and institutes in the university.

In order to set standards for UBCPC's and develop training programs to provide minimum qualifications for the team members, "Child Protection Centers Coordination Board" was established. The Board developed a training program which consists of a 5-day basic education, a first level certificate program which lasts for 5 months and a second level certificate program which lasts for one year.

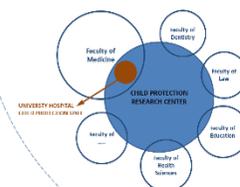
The first step of this standardized training program was put in action as a preliminary study in August 2012 and the basic program was given to 20 people. After getting the feedback of the participants, the program was evaluated and revised. In the revision, the program was constructed into a more interactive form mainly through case discussions. It includes information about child development and child abuse, multidisciplinary approach, ethical principles, communication skills and teamwork in management in child abuse. In this paper, the details of the standardized basic training program will be presented.

## A STANDARDIZED TRAINING PROGRAM FOR PROFESSIONALS WORKING IN UNIVERSITY BASED CHILD PROTECTION CENTERS IN TURKEY

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Universities can assume a pioneer role in child protection and develop conscience and sensitivity in the society. The University Based Child Protection Centers (UBCPC) were founded in 7 universities of different provinces in Turkey from 2006 to 2012.

The mission of these centers is to provide a multidisciplinary approach to abused children as well as carry out preventive studies, research and advocacy work. UBCPC's are engaged in prevention activities via family training programs, youth activities, improving risk screening at child health care clinics and providing intervention when needed.



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The first step of this standardized training program has been put in action as a preliminary study in August 2012 and the basic program was applied to 20 people.

After getting their feedbacks, the program was evaluated and revised. In the revision, the program was constructed into a more interactive form mainly through case discussions. It includes information about child development and child abuse, multidisciplinary approach, ethical principles, communication skills and teamwork in management in child abuse.

In order to provide minimum qualifications for the team members working in the centers, a training program is developed. The program which consists of a 5-days basic education, a first level certificate program which lasts for 5 months and a second level certificate program which lasts for one year.

"Hospital-Based Child Protection Centers Guide for Universities", "Handbook for Hospital Based Child Protection Centers A Holistic Approach to Child Victims of Abuse and Neglect" and "Trainer's Handbook for Training The Staff Working in Hospital Based Child Protection Units" have been prepared.



1. Responsibilities and required competencies for the staff of child protection units
  2. Training programmes for child protection units
  3. Structure of training programme
- Training programmes
1. Basic education programme  
Programme coordinators  
Programme aim and objectives  
Programme schedule (5-days)  
Session plans (20-weeks)
  2. 1<sup>st</sup> level certificate programme (5 months)
  3. 2<sup>nd</sup> level certificate programme (1 year)

