

**POST OCCUPANCY EVALUATION OF THE CHILD CARE CENTERS IN KOREA.** Lee, Y.S., Min, J.H., Lee, S.M., Department of Housing and Interior Design, Yonsei University, Seoul, 120-749, Korea, Shin, H.K., Department of Consumers and Housing Studies, Sangmyung University, Seoul, 110-743, Korea, Lee, S.J.\*, Department of Home Management, Sunggyunkwan University, Seoul, 110-745, Korea.

An increase in the number of women working has accelerated the diffusion of child-care spaces. A substantial number of child care facilities have already been built until now. This rapid diffusion has produced various physical environments including low qualified ones or characteristics. Since child care center is an important behavioral setting for future generation, it is important to make this environments desirable, which supports physical, emotional and cognitive development of children.

The purpose of this study was to evaluate 35 child care centers which were deliberately planned and constructed with relatively clear goals to another ones in Korea.

In order to develop a frame for evaluation, the contents of the interior design guidelines in the 15 representative western literatures were analyzed. As a result, comprehensive interior design guidelines to meet the behavioral needs of children and caregivers were presented. These guidelines were systematically synthesized according to specific spaces, and then employed as criteria of evaluation. "Walk Through Evaluation" as a simple pilot study was included in the first step of this POE research, to identify actual conditions of child care centers and needs. Among the guidelines, it was necessary to identify items which were perceived as important by child care leaders. This reflects not only current status but also cultural differences. As a result, those items were identified and described. This perceived importance were incorporated into the interpretation of actual evaluation of child care centers.

As a result of POE, the unexistence of necessary spaces and lack of essential design characteristics in the existing spaces/areas appeared as problems. This shows child care centers in Korea are in the beginning stages and they have been disseminated without thorough review of relevant information and deliberate planning for desirable effects on children's development and welfare.