

## THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A GUIDANCE COUNSELING PROGRAM AIMING TO SUPPORT *54-66 MONTHS OLD CHILDREN'S* DEVELOPMENT LEVEL AND READINESS FOR PRIMARY SCHOOL

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### ABSTRACT

The aim of this study is to develop and implement a guidance-counseling program in line with the objectives of the pre-school education program developed by the National Ministry of Education in order to support **54-66 months old children's** development areas and readiness for primary school. Prior to the implementation of the guidance counseling program, specific development areas of the children were investigated through the "Ankara Developmental Screening Inventory", their personal social development was explored using the "School Social Behavior Scales", their visual perception levels were revealed by means of the "Frostig Visual Perception Test" and their school readiness level were investigated through the "Marmara Primary School Readiness Scale". As a result of the data collection, the guidance counseling program supported by some educational materials aiming to improve their fine and gross motor skills as well as their visual perception development was implemented by the children's classroom teachers and student teachers teaching **54-66-month-old children. At the end of the study, it was found that the** guidance counseling program developed for the study improved the children's overall development and accelerated the primary school readiness level of the children starting school when they were 66 months old in line with the 4+4+4 education system.

**Key Words:** Guidance and counseling program, pre-school, school readiness,