

DoCS Research to Practice **Update**

A regular update for staff on the latest national and international research

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Research Publications – What's New!

Research to practice

The Research to Practice Program provides an essential link between the latest research and DoCS staff.

As part of this important initiative, the Research to Practice Update encompasses a broad range of research publications and resources to reflect the diversity of DoCS staff.

If you have any comments or suggestions about how we could improve this Update to make it more useful or relevant to your work, please email the Research to Practice Team at:

- researchtopractice@community.nsw.gov.au

Early Intervention and Prevention Research

Working in Partnership: User Perceptions of Intensive Home Visiting

Kirkpatrick, S., Barlow, J., Stewart-Brown, S. & Davis, H. (2007). *Child Abuse Review*, 16, 32-46

This article reports on a study involving in-depth interviews with twenty vulnerable women. It explores their perceptions of the value of intensive home visiting in pregnancy and the first year of life. Home visits were delivered by health visitors trained to work in partnership with families. The findings highlight the importance of establishing a trusting relationship between helper and provider, and the need for home visitors to have the necessary skills and qualities to establish such relationships.

This article can be viewed online at: www.interscience.wiley.com

This article is only available in print from the DoCS library.

Informal and formal supports and maternal child-rearing practices in at-risk and non at-risk psychosocial contexts

Rodrigo, M. Martín, J. Máiquez M. & Rodríguez, G. (2007). *Children and youth services review*, 29, 3, 329-347

This paper investigates and explores two questions. First the differences between the social networks called on to solve problems of at-risk and non at-risk mothers. Second, how the risk status and source of support influence the relation between the mothers' social support and their parental practices. The findings suggest that the relation between support satisfaction and child-rearing behaviour depended on the risk status and the sources of support.

www.sciencedirect.com

Enhancing Parent-Child Interactions through Home Visiting: Promising Practice or Unfulfilled Promise?

Peterson, C., Luze, G., Eshbaugh E., Jeon H-J. & Kantz, K. (2007). *Journal of Early Intervention*, 29, 2, 119-138

This study explores the overall intervention processes in two home visiting programs and describes specific strategies (e.g. coaching and modelling) used during interactions with the parent and child together. The study found that minimal time was focused on facilitating parent-child interactions, however when these strategies were used, mothers were more likely to be engaged in the intervention activities.

Ngaripirliga'ajirri - An early intervention program on the Tiwi Islands

Robinson, G. & Tyler, B. (2006). School for Social & Policy Research, Charles Darwin University

This is the final evaluation report concerning *Ngaripirliga'ajirri* - an indigenous version of the Exploring Together program. Exploring Together is a targeted 10 week multi-group program which aims to treat children aged from 7 to 12 years referred with conduct disorders or observed behavioural difficulty manifest in school or other settings. Evaluation of the program shows promising outcomes both for children who have displayed positive

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improvements in behaviour observed at school; and, for their parents, who are able to act more positively and confidently in responding to children's behaviour and to family issues which affect their children.

This report can be viewed online at: <http://www.cdu.edu.au/sspr/documents/Ngari.pdf>

Journal Articles

Interventions to prevent or ameliorate child physical abuse and neglect: findings from a systematic review of reviews

Barlow, J. Simkiss, D. & Stewart-Brown, S. (2006). *Journal of Children's Services*, 1, 3, November, 6-28

This article summarise the available evidence from systematic reviews about the effectiveness of interventions to prevent or treat child physical abuse and neglect. The reviews covered a range of interventions/services, including home visiting, parenting programmes, multi-component interventions, intensive family preservation services, family-focused casework and multi-systemic family therapy.

This article can be accessed at: <http://search.ebscohost.com>

The mental health and well being of children and adolescents in home-based foster care

Sawyer, M. Carbone, J. Searle, A. & Robinson, P. (2007). *The Medical Journal of Australia*, 186, 4, 181-184

This study reports on the prevalence of mental health problems, rates of suicidal ideation and behaviour, and use of professional mental health services among children and adolescents residing in home-based foster care. Children in home-based foster care were found to experience high rates of mental health problems but only a minority receive professional help for their problems.

This article can be viewed online at: http://www.mja.com.au/public/issues/186_04_190207/saw10752_fm.html

Improving health services for foster youth: multidisciplinary and multistakeholder perspectives and recommendations

Shneiderman, J. Brooks, D. Fascher, B. Amis, J. (2007). *Children and youth services review*, 29, 3, 313-328

This paper suggests that children in foster care exhibit physical health problems at alarming rates. Moreover, these problems are frequently undiagnosed before entry into foster care and too often go untreated while in care. To address the inadequate system of health care for foster children in the U.S., a multidisciplinary summit was held in Los Angeles, California. This article analyses information collected at the summit, including information on health needs of foster children, barriers to health services and recommendations for improving health services to foster youth.

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DoCS Library

Some articles and resources in this Update can not be accessed electronically but can be borrowed from the DoCS library. Please contact:

DOCS.Library@community.nsw.gov.au

School performance trajectories after the advent of reported maltreatment

Leiter, J. (2007). *Children and youth services review*, 29 (3), pages 363-382

The authors suggest that recent research has concluded that maltreatment is associated with poor school performance but has inadequately investigated the relationship over time. This study explores the effects of maltreatment on school grades and absenteeism. Their findings and implications for practice suggest that Child Protective Service responses after substantiating a report at risk appears to have blunted the impact of maltreatment on grades, though not on absenteeism.

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Research Reports

Conduct Disorder in Older Children and Young People: Research messages for practice problems

This review addresses ten common questions arising from practitioners by presenting messages from research, along with pointers to ongoing studies, further reading and practice examples. It aims to help practitioners consider a range of factors that can affect outcomes for adolescents and young people whose behaviour meets the criteria to diagnose conduct disorder.

This review and a shorter briefing paper can be accessed online at:
<http://www.rip.org.uk/publications/researchreviews.asp>

Domestic Violence and Child Abuse

This briefing paper from the United Kingdom offers background information on the issues and key messages from research in the area of domestic violence and child abuse with particular focus on the messages that support what helps children and families in practice.

The briefing paper can be accessed at:

<http://www.rip.org.uk/publications/researchbriefings.asp>

Resources

Child Welfare Programs: Performance Improvement in a CQI Context

Wulczyn, F. (2007). Chapin Hall Working Paper

This paper explores how the continuous quality improvement process might be applied to child welfare systems to improve outcomes such as child safety, permanency and well-being. The importance of well-articulated goals for performance monitoring is emphasised.

This working paper is available from the DoCS library or can be accessed online at:

http://www.chapinhall.org/article_abstract.aspx?ar=1448

Children and Domestic Violence: A System of Safety in Clinical Practice

Cooley, B. & Frazer C. (2006). *Australian Social Work*, 59, 4, December, 462-473

This paper provides a framework for working with children and families where there are domestic violence and child protection concerns. A strengths-based approach is outlined which involves enhancing the skills women and children have already demonstrated and providing a safe space to explore options and further strategies.

This paper is available online at:
<http://search.ebscohost.com>

Indigenous justice clearinghouse - Sharing knowledge about what works to address Indigenous issues

The Indigenous justice clearinghouse aims to promote discussion and disseminate information to government policy makers and those working in the Indigenous justice field. It has been developed in a partnership between the Australian Institute of Criminology and the Attorney General's Department of NSW.

The clearinghouse can be accessed at: <http://www.indigenousjustice.gov.au/>

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New Books

Clinical Skills in Infant Mental Health

Mares, S., Newman, L., & Beulah, W. (2006)

This is a comprehensive, clearly written book to help practitioners understand the theories underpinning infant mental health and deal with the practicalities of incorporating an infant mental health approach into their work. The book aims to assist practitioners understand how babies, toddlers and children grow emotionally and the significance of their behaviour.

This book is available from the DoCS Library.

Disclaimer

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