

The Irie Homes Toolbox: Development and Evaluation

Submission date 28/08/2018	Recruitment status No longer recruiting	☒ Prospectively registered ☐ Protocol
Registration date 11/09/2018	Overall study status Completed	☐ Statistical analysis plan ☒ Results
Last Edited 04/02/2026	Condition category Mental and Behavioural Disorders	☐ Individual participant data

Plain English summary of protocol

Background and study aims:

A safe, secure, nurturing and stimulating early childhood caregiving environment promotes children's social, emotional and cognitive development. The aim of this study is to evaluate 'The Irie Homes Toolbox', a combined violence prevention and early childhood development intervention that will be delivered in community preschools to parents of young children. The intervention aims to reduce child abuse and neglect and to promote positive parent-child interaction and stimulation in the home. The study will test whether training parents in behaviour management, child-directed play and interactive reading leads to benefits to parenting practices including reductions in harsh punishment and increases in play and positive parent-child interaction. The study will also evaluate whether there are benefits for the children of participating parents, including child behaviour, school readiness and language skills.

Who can participate?

Parents and children aged 3-6 years at preschools in Kingston and St Andrew, Jamaica

What does the study involve?

Schools are randomly allocated into one of two groups. Parents of children attending schools in group 1 (intervention group) are invited to participate in training sessions which cover skills in managing child behaviour, child-directed play and interactive reading. Sessions are conducted with groups of six parents for about one hour a week for eight weeks. Parents attending schools in group 2 (comparison group) are not offered the training sessions.

What are the possible benefits and risks of participating?

Parents will be trained in evidence-based behaviour management strategies and it is anticipated that this will lead to benefits including a reduction in negative and an increase in positive parent parenting practices leading to improved child behaviour, school readiness and language skills. Risks to participants are minimal.

Where is the study run from?

Caribbean Institute for Health Research, University of the West Indies, Kingston (Jamaica)

When is the study starting and how long is it expected to run for?

August 2018 to August 2019

Who is funding the study?

Grand Challenges Canada

Who is the main contact?

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Contact information

Type(s)

Scientific

Contact name

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Additional identifiers

Protocol serial number

R-SB-POC-1707-08325

Study information

Scientific Title

The Irie Homes Toolbox: a cluster randomised trial of a universal, parent training, violence prevention programme in community preschools in Jamaica

Study objectives

Training parents of preschool aged children in appropriate discipline practices and in ways to engage their child in appropriate play activities will lead to:

1. Reductions in parents' use of harsh punishment and

2. Increases in parents' positive parenting practices

The trialists also hypothesise that the parent training will lead to improved behaviour, language and school readiness skills for the children of participating parents.

Ethics approval required

Old ethics approval format

Ethics approval(s)

1. University of the West Indies ethics committee, 01/06/2018, ref: ECP 144, 17/18
2. School of Psychology ethics committee, 21/08/2018, ref: 2018-16364

Primary study design

Interventional

Study design

Two-arm single-blind cluster-randomised controlled trial with parallel assignment

Study type(s)

Prevention

Health condition(s) or problem(s) studied

Violence, parenting practices, mental health

Interventions

Community preschools will be randomised to participate in the intervention (9 schools, 108 parents) or to a no-treatment control arm (9 schools, 108 parents).

The intervention involves training the parents of preschool children in child behaviour management strategies, child-led play and interactive reading. The content of the program is based on evidenced informed parenting practices that improve parenting behaviour and reduce child behaviour problems. Parents will be trained in four key concepts: i) building positive relationships between parent and child (e.g. praise, child-led play, involving child in everyday activities, understanding emotions), ii) preventing misbehaviour (e.g. understanding why children misbehave, giving children independence and autonomy, giving clear instructions, setting rules and expectations, modelling appropriate behaviour), iii) managing misbehaviour (e.g. redirecting child, withdrawing attention, setting limits, giving appropriate consequences) and iv) play activities and interactive book reading.

Intervention delivery: The intervention will be delivered jointly by a member of the research team and a teacher from the school who has been trained in the Irie Classroom Toolbox. The program will be conducted weekly for eight weeks during the Christmas school term with a group of six parents in each school and then repeated with another group of six parents in the Spring term. Sessions will last one hour and will be held at the study preschools either in the morning when parents come to drop off their children or in the afternoon when they come for pickup. Sessions will be held either in the school yard or any available quiet space. During each session, a new behaviour management concept and a play or language activity will be introduced. Parents will be given materials to take home after each session including a card highlighting the key concepts covered and a toy or book to practice the activities that were introduced in the session.

Control condition: The participating parents in control schools will not receive the parenting sessions. They will continue to be invited to the regular school activities.

All parents will receive a gift for their child after being interviewed at baseline and post-test.

Intervention Type

Behavioural

Primary outcome(s)

1. Parents' use of harsh punishment
2. Parents' use of positive parenting practices

Both of these outcomes will be assessed by parent report using an interviewer-administered questionnaire and will be measured at baseline and post-test

Key secondary outcome(s)

Secondary outcomes:

1. Child behaviour difficulties at home by parent report
2. Child prosocial behaviour at home by parent report
3. Child behaviour difficulties at school by teacher report
4. Child prosocial behaviour at school by teacher report

These outcomes will be measured at baseline and post-test

Additional secondary outcomes:

1. Child school readiness skills by direct testing
2. Child language skills by direct testing

These outcomes will be measured in the Summer term only - i.e. 1-5 months after the end of the intervention

Completion date

31/08/2019

Eligibility

Key inclusion criteria

All community preschools situated in a specified geographical region of Kingston and that participated in a previous trial of the Irie Classroom Toolbox will be eligible for participation in the study. Parents of children attending the selected schools will be recruited.

Inclusion criteria for parents are:

1. Available and interested to participate in the parenting sessions
2. Has a child attending the school and intends the child to continue attending the school during the current school year
3. Parent gives consent for him/herself and his/her child to participate in the study

One child for each parent will be recruited. When a parent has more than one child attending the school, the youngest child will be recruited

Participant type(s)

Carer

Healthy volunteers allowed

No

Age group

Adult

Sex

All

Total final enrolment

Key exclusion criteria

Parents of children with obvious disabilities (these parents will be permitted to participate in the training sessions, but they will not be included in the evaluation)

Date of first enrolment

11/09/2018

Date of final enrolment

31/01/2019

Locations**Countries of recruitment**

Jamaica

Study participating centre

Caribbean Institute for Health Research

University of the West Indies

Mona

Kingston

Jamaica

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Sponsor information**Organisation**

University of the West Indies

ROR

<https://ror.org/03fkc8c64>

Funder(s)**Funder type**

Government

Funder Name

Grand Challenges Canada

Alternative Name(s)

Grands Défis Canada, gchallenges, Grand Challenges Canada / Grands Défis Canada, grandchallengescanada, GCC

Funding Body Type
Government organisation

Funding Body Subtype
National government

Location
Canada

Results and Publications

Individual participant data (IPD) sharing plan

IPD sharing plan summary
Not expected to be made available

Study outputs

Output type	Details	Date created	Date added	Peer reviewed?	Patient-facing?
Results article		01/07/2021	11/08/2022	Yes	No
Interim results article	results	16/11/2020	19/11/2020	Yes	No
Other publications	Qualitative findings on the mechanisms of action of the programme	09/11/2022	04/02/2026	Yes	No