

Early intervention for at-risk children: three-year follow up

Submission date 28/06/2008	Recruitment status No longer recruiting	<input type="checkbox"/> Prospectively registered
Registration date 29/08/2008	Overall study status Completed	<input type="checkbox"/> Protocol
Last Edited 08/08/2011	Condition category Mental and Behavioural Disorders	<input type="checkbox"/> Statistical analysis plan
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Results
		<input type="checkbox"/> Individual participant data

Plain English summary of protocol
Not provided at time of registration

Contact information

Type(s)
Scientific

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Additional identifiers

Study information

Scientific Title
School-based indicated prevention: two and three year follow up of a randomised trial of group therapy

Study objectives
The hypothesis was that drama group intervention would reduce symptoms of mental disorder among children teacher-identified children meeting a number of criteria. These were:

1. Scholastic under-performance
2. Known major family problems
3. Ill-nourished or poorly cared for appearance
4. Impaired peer relationships
5. Behavioural or emotional difficulties

Ethics approval required

Old ethics approval format

Ethics approval(s)

Ethics approval received from the Newcastle upon Tyne Ethics Committee in 1995.

Study design

Randomised controlled trial

Primary study design

Interventional

Study type(s)

Prevention

Health condition(s) or problem(s) studied

Mental disorder in children and young people

Interventions

Interventions comprised drama group therapy (DGT), comprising reflective discussion and role play conducted by a drama therapy trained teacher. The role play was central to the drama therapy and involved mini-plays using themes suggested by the children themselves such as disciplinary episodes involving teachers or police, family difficulties and peer issues, seeking for alternative practicable routes to more satisfactory solutions from the participants' perspectives.

The control curriculum studies (CS) comparison involved teaching mathematics and English also delivered in the children's school. The CS group was encouraged in the formation of a positive peer group that focused on developing skills in mathematics and English. During the sessions no attempt was made to investigate any emotional/behavioural issues, but the pedagogy was strongly inclusive and supportive, with clear expectations for conduct. The group leader used focused praise for achievement of task outcome and collaborative behaviours shown by the group.

The two groups each ran for an hour a week over a 12 week period and were conducted during school hours. The follow up took place over three years.

Please note that the sponsor and funder of this trial, Northern and Yorkshire Research and Development Directorate (UK), does not exist any more due to restructuring in the NHS.

Intervention Type

Other

Phase

Not Specified

Primary outcome(s)

Scores on behaviour parent- teacher- and self-report mental health questionnaires:

1. The Child Behaviour Checklist
2. Teacher Report Form
3. Youth Self Report

Data were gathered three months pre-intervention and at the start of intervention (waiting list control), at the end of intervention (+three months), six months, one year, two years and three years post-intervention.

Key secondary outcome(s)

No secondary outcome measures.

Completion date

15/04/2001

Eligibility**Key inclusion criteria**

1. Children of either sex
2. Scholastic under-performance
3. Known major family problems
4. Ill-nourished or poorly cared for appearance
5. Impaired peer relationships
6. Behavioural or emotional difficulties

Participant type(s)

Patient

Healthy volunteers allowed

No

Age group

Child

Sex

All

Key exclusion criteria

Not at school.

Date of first enrolment

15/09/1996

Date of final enrolment

15/04/2001

Locations**Countries of recruitment**

United Kingdom

England

Study participating centre

Fleming Nuffield Unit

Newcastle upon Tyne

United Kingdom

NE3 4EX

Sponsor information

Organisation

Northern and Yorkshire Research and Development Directorate (UK)

Funder(s)

Funder type

Government

Funder Name

Northern and Yorkshire Research and Development Directorate (UK)

Results and Publications

Individual participant data (IPD) sharing plan

IPD sharing plan summary

Not provided at time of registration

Study outputs

Output type	Details	Date created	Date added	Peer reviewed?	Patient-facing?
Results article	results	01/09/2002		Yes	No