

The Family Networks Project: Supporting Family Confidence, Competence, and Community Connections

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BabyNet Early Intervention System

Our Partners

- Lead Agency: South Carolina First Steps to School Readiness
 - Serves as lead agency in South Carolina for BabyNet, the state entity charged with service provision via Part C of IDEA
- Parenting and Family Research Center, Dept. of Psychology, University of South Carolina
- South Carolina Department of Disabilities and Special Needs
 - Provides early intervention and service coordination for 70% of BabyNet-eligible families
- Children's Trust of South Carolina
 - State agency charged with prevention of child maltreatment and lead agency for Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) funds
- South Carolina's Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Initiative

Key Question

- Can we strengthen families of young children with developmental disabilities, promote positive parent and child functioning, and prevent child maltreatment by intervening at two levels of the social ecology?
 - Individual Family Level
 - Community Level

Why?

- Young children with developmental disabilities may be especially vulnerable to maltreatment
 - Rates of maltreatment highest for children under 2 years of age
 - Rates of maltreatment higher among youth with disabilities
(Sullivan & Knutson, 2000, *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 24, 10, 1257-1273.)
- Strengthening families may be the best way to prevent maltreatment
 - U.S. Triple P System Population Trial—positive results at a population level (Prinz, Sanders, Shapiro, Whitaker, & Lutzker, 2009, *Prevention Science*, 10, 1-12.)
 - Protective factors identified by Strengthening Families through Early Care and Education initiative (Center for Study of Social Policy, 2004)

What?

- Examine initial efficacy of Stepping Stones Triple P-Positive Parenting Program (SSTP) with parents of very young children with developmental disabilities
 - Triple P parenting interventions have a strong evidence base
 - SSTP specifically developed for parents of children with developmental disabilities
 - Extend the evidence base to include parents of children below age 2
 - Targets the individual family level of the social ecology
- Examine incremental benefit of SSTP when combined with Preventing Child Abuse and Neglect: Parent-Provider Partnerships in Child Care (PCAN) as an intervention strategy for IDEA Part C Service Coordinators who work with parents of young children with developmental disabilities
 - PCAN developed for childcare providers and not yet examined with IDEA Part C providers
 - Targets community level of the social ecology (relationship with providers)

Stepping Stones Triple P (SSTP)

- Aims to improve parental competence and confidence in managing every day parenting challenges for parents of children with developmental disabilities
- 10 sessions, home-based delivery for this project
- SSTP providers
 - Focus on selection of providers already working with families of young children
 - Capitalize on providers trained and accredited to deliver Triple P through the U.S. Triple P System Population Trial
- Core principle of self-regulation
- Built in pre-post measures form base of our evaluation

PCAN

- Workforce enhancement strategy
- Aims to build capacity of child care providers to prevent maltreatment in very young children
- Has potential to be applied to other types of service providers
 - IDEA Part C Service Coordinators & Supervisors
 - 8 units exist for providers
 - Select units that have applicability to Service Coordinators
 - Training will occur in half-day segments
 - 2 units for directors

Target population

- 100 children with developmental disabilities between 14 and 23 months of age
- Two studies will be conducted, each with a sample size of 50
- Families enrolled in BabyNet, the South Carolina IDEA Part C service system in 2 discrete geographic regions of the state
- No history of child maltreatment
- Agree to random assignment

Study One Design: SSTP Efficacy

- Random assignment of families in one region of the state to:
 - SSTP plus IDEA Part C services as usual (n=25)
 - IDEA Part C services as usual (n=25)
- Assess at baseline, 4 months, and 12 months (pre, post, and follow-up)
- Examine domains of functioning related to increasing protective factors and decreasing risk factors
 - Child functioning, parent-child relationship, parenting competence and confidence, relationship between family and providers
 - Will obtain copies of IFSP's at each assessment point to capture other services provided to family

Study Two Design: SSTP and PCAN

- Upskill IDEA Part C Service Coordinators/Supervisors in PCAN in a second geographic region of the state
 - Region separate from location of Study One
- Random assignment of families to:
 - PCAN, IDEA Part C services as usual, and SSTP (n=25)
 - PCAN and IDEA Part C services as usual (n=25)
- Assess at baseline, 4 months, and 12 months (pre, post, and follow-up)
- Examine domains of functioning related to increasing protective factors and decreasing risk factors
 - Child functioning, parent-child relationship, parenting competence and confidence, relationship between family and providers
 - Will obtain copies of IFSP's at each assessment point to capture other services provided to family

Evaluation

- Data from multiple viewpoints
 - Providers trained in PCAN and SSTP
 - Parents
 - Parent-child dyad
- Multiple domains of functioning
 - Parent competence
 - Parent confidence
 - Parent personal functioning
 - Child behavior and functioning
 - Parent-child relationship
 - Family functioning
 - Relationship between parenting partners (as applicable)
 - Provider-parent relationship
- Aim to increase family strengths, optimize child development, and decrease likelihood of maltreatment