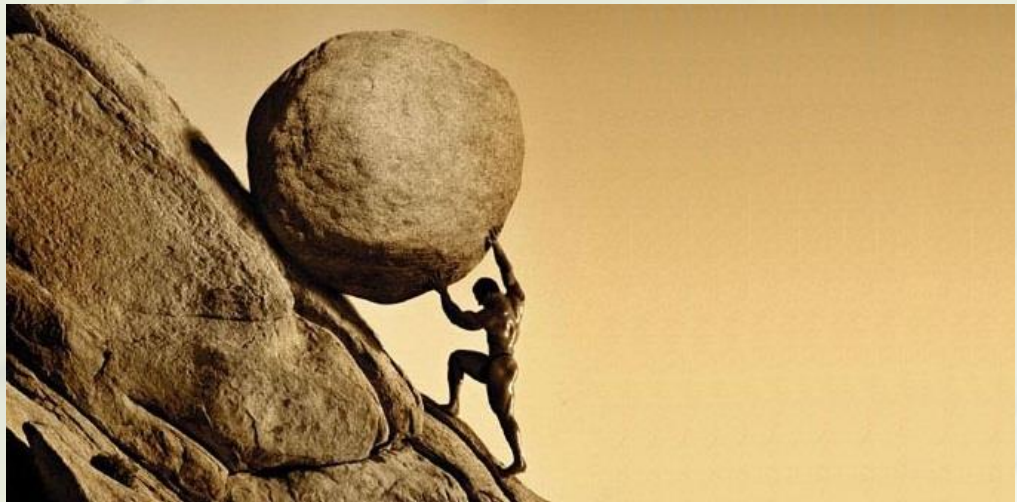


A Sisyphean Task: In the endless
challenges of working with multi-risk
families, what works?

Sarah Whitcombe-Dobbs
University of Canterbury

Who are we talking about?

- Parents of infants and children where there are ongoing care and protection concerns
- Parents who retain custody of their children
- What are some of the typical problems?
- *Fundamental dynamics within the family, and between the family and their contexts, which are stable despite a sense of ongoing chaos*



What is the evidence base for these?

- For Triple P?
- For Incredible Years?
- Generic/non-specific?

Three key issues:

1. Poor/no evidence for efficacy with target population
2. Participation and retention very low for parents with multiple problems
3. Experience tells us that IY/Triple P “don’t touch the sides” for some families, even when parents complete

Literature Search

What is the evidence for parenting interventions targeting maltreating parents where *actual abuse and neglect outcomes are measured*?

Articles needed to include the target population (not just “high risk” due to low SES etc), and measure abuse & neglect objectively, NOT via psychometrics or other associated measures.

Main results – 8 articles

Intervention	Significant differences on recidivism rates between groups?	Risk for bias
PCIT (Chaffin et al., 2004)	No – neglect Yes – physical abuse	No
PCIT plus motivational intervention (Chaffin, Funderburk, Valle, & Gurwitsch, 2011)	Yes – but PCIT without motivation = significantly worse	Yes – performance, other
Project Safecare (Gershater-Molko, Lutzker, & Wesch, 2002)	Yes – only after 12 months post-intervention	Yes – selection, performance, detection, attrition, reporting, other
Project Support (Jouriles et al., 2010)	No	Yes – selection, performance, detection, other
Home visitation – public health nurses (MacMillan et al., 2005)	No	Yes – performance, other
Nurturing Parenting Program (MacMillan et al., 2005)	No	Yes – selection, attrition
Promoting First Relationships (Oxford, Spieker, Lohr, & Fleming, 2016)	No	No
Home Visitation by paraprofessionals (PAT) (Jonson-Reid et al., 2018)	No	Yes – selection, performance, detection, attrition

Paper title and authors	Secondary outcomes showing improvement	Secondary outcomes that did not improve or no significant treatment effects
Chaffin et al. (2004) Parent-Child Interaction	Reductions in negative parent behaviours	Distress and support Depression CAP rigidity and BASC scores Positive parent behaviours
Chaffin et al. (2011)	n/a*	n/a*
Gershater-Molko et al. (2002) Project Safecare	n/a*	n/a*
Jouriles et al. (2010) Project Support	Harsh parenting Inability to control child behaviour Observed ineffective parenting	Maternal distress
MacMillan et al. (2005) home visitation by public-health nurses		Child abuse potential General functioning Child behaviour problems Home environment Adult adolescent parenting
Maher et al. (2011) Nurturing Parenting Program	n/a*	n/a*
Oxford et al. (2016) Promoting First Relationships	Parent understanding of toddlers Parent sensitivity Child atypical affective communication	Dysfunctional interaction Child social-emotional competence Child behaviour problems Child emotional regulation Child exploration Child secure base behaviour
Jonson-Reid et al (2018) Home visitation by paraprofessionals		Maternal depression Self-reported stressors Parenting-stress subscales (competency, attachment, child demandingness, child mood) Helpfulness of social supports

*Study design did not allow for comparison/sufficient detail not reported

Conclusions

- Need for a sustained & systematic approach to evaluating interventions for this population
- Studies should not exclude parents with low IQ or severe mental health problems
- Good secondary outcomes do not necessarily = reductions in child maltreatment
- Momentum/cascade gains appear to not apply to this population
- Longer interventions are not necessarily > shorter, but needs more exploration

What do we want? Well-designed studies! When do we want them?

Well, the wheels of academia turn slowly...

Within-subject, long-term case studies allow for a fine-grained examination of the mechanisms by which change occurs within a family system. This means we need to draw on:

- Behavioural approaches & research designs
- Understanding & addressing the intergenerational transmission of trauma
- Ecological systems theory
- Wraparound principles; 'boots on the ground' social work
- Sufficiently long-term & intensive involvement
- Results-based accountability: measures that MATTER (*this* child in *this* family)
- As **well as** larger-scale RCTs

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