

IASA's 10-Year Celebration

Florence, June 12 - 14, 2018

Promoting sensitive caregiving: A primary prevention model.

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Topic: Research

Early sensitive care-giving predicts more positive development in infancy and early childhood. This presentation outlines the development, implementation and evaluation of a clinical program that used a targeted prevention approach following a universally-offered screening of parent–infant interactions in one region in the UK. Dyads were screened and then assigned to low, medium and high risk groups, and interventions were tailored each risk group.

How it used the DMM

The DMM CARE-Index was used to screen and assign dyads to risk groups, and the CARE-Index was also the basis for individualizing the focus intervention received by each dyad from community health workers or psychologists, depending on the level of risk. The results on maternal sensitivity and infant attachment in the intervention and comparison conditions will be presented.

What it can contribute to the DMM

The significance of the study was its demonstration that universally offered screening and levels of intervention provided within a public health service, were beneficial and potentially held a cost savings. Limitations to the research and recommendations for next steps will be presented.