

Current Research

The Bangor Child Behaviour Project, Wales

Collaborative project between the North West Wales NHS Trust and the University of Wales, Bangor



Wales team

Founder: [Judy Hutchings](#)

Background: The Bangor Child Behaviour Project was founded in 1995 by Dr. Judy Hutchings as a collaborative project between the North West Wales NHS Trust and the University of Wales, Bangor. Its aim is to promote evidence based practice in clinical and preventive work with children with behavioral difficulties or those at risk of developing such problems. In recent years a major focus of the project has been in the evaluation of the Incredible Years (IY) programmes for parents and children. The IY teacher programme is also being delivered in North Wales. Following positive preliminary outcomes from a small-scale evaluation of the IY BASIC parenting programme in North Wales Sure Start centres, a three-year study has been funded by the PPP Foundation. This study commenced in October 2002

Aims and study design: The study is a randomized controlled trial replication of Professor Webster-Stratton's (1998) evaluation of the IY BASIC parenting programme in Head Start Centres in Seattle. The study will focus on parents of pre-school children identified as being at risk of developing behavioural problems. Seven Sure Start Services from across North Wales have been enlisted to deliver the programme in groups lead by certified group leaders. Local health visitors have been enlisted to recruit a total of 126 families, 18 from each of the Sure Start centre. Following baseline assessment, families will be randomly allocated to intervention or waiting list control groups. All families will be assessed post intervention, and again 1 year, and some cases 2 years, after baseline. Parent-child interaction, parenting practice and child behavior will be observed and coded in the home using the DPICS coding system. Interview and parent report questionnaire data will assess family risk factors, parenting competencies, child social competencies and child conduct problems.

This is new and exciting study. Although research using the IY parenting programme with clinically referred populations has been undertaken in the UK by Dr. Stephen Scott, there has been no evaluation of the program in an early intervention/preventive setting in the UK. Furthermore the programme has not examined the special challenges posed by a largely bi-lingual and rural based population, such as that found in Wales.