Enhancing the parent/nurse relationship to promote better health and developmental outcomes in young children

2015 Australian Nurses and Midwives Conference
Families in Australia – what do we know?

• Australian families have changed over the past 20 years
• more complex with increased vulnerability
• need to identify the most vulnerable children and families
• hard to identify
• evidence highlights the cost effectiveness of acting early to identify and address risk
Family
Early intervention and the parent/nurse relationship

• early experiences affect the brain development
• role of nurse in supporting the parent/child relationship
• most important relationship is between the child and their caregiver
• parents ‘vote with their feet’
• ‘windows of opportunity’ in developing the parent/nurse relationship
How can we actively engage families for better outcomes?

• consider the child within the family and within the community
• practise in a way that supports the development of a respectful relationship
• approach is appropriate wherever you practice – in acute care, community based programs or in the family home
Different approaches to support your practice

1. Working together with families – Family Partnership Model
2. Using a screening tool to support parent engagement – Parents’ Evaluation of Developmental Status (PEDS)
3. A practice framework to help you ask the ‘hard questions’ – Parent Engagement Resource (PER)
Ecological systems model for child development

2015. The Centre for Community Child Health at The Royal Children’s Hospital and Murdoch Children’s Research Institute
1. Family Partnership Model

- Developed in the U.K by the Centre for Parent and Child Support
- Extensive research over 30 years
- Research completed in U.K, Europe and Australia promotes the effectiveness of taking a ‘partnership approach’ to working with families
- Research is based on the work of frontline practitioners working with families
- An example of the research in Australia is the Maternal Early Childhood Sustained Home-visiting (MESCH) completed in NSW by Professor Lyn Kemp and colleagues (2011)
2. Parents Evaluation of Developmental Status’ (PEDS)

- a parent led developmental screening tool
- 10 questions that ask parents to tell you about their child’s development and share their concerns
- used with parents of children aged from birth to 8 years
- encourages parents to share their knowledge of their child’s development and behaviour.
- effective in identifying children’s health and developmental needs
3. Parent Engagement Resource (PER)

- a practice framework

- practitioners invite parents to identify if any psycho-social factors may be impacting on their child.

- developed by the Centre for Community Child Health

- resource includes a questionnaire; a practice handbook; and an algorithm flipchart

- training and professional supervision

- completed a feasibility study (2011) and a national randomised cluster trial (2014)

- more research planned
References/Recommended reading


Harvard University Centre for Developing Child
http://developingchild.harvard.edu/key_concepts/brain_architecture/

Parents Evaluation of Developmental Status
Contact details:

Ms Dianne Halloran R.N
Senior Project Officer
Centre for Community Child Health
Community Child Health, Population Health
Honorary Clinical Lecturer, Department of Paediatrics.
University of Melbourne

Murdoch Childrens Research Institute
The Royal Children’s Hospital
Flemington Road Parkville Victoria 3052 Australia
T 03 99366504  F 03 9 345 5900
M 0434 248 539
E dianne.halloran@mcri.edu.au
www.mcri.edu.au

For more information visit: