



Developmental Care News

May 2016

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Keeping up.....

Post-discharge interventions

A new systematic review from the Netherlands makes a case for developmental interventions at home following neonatal intensive care. It concludes that interventions based on parent infant interactions are more likely to be successful than those that take an educational approach. **Aleid van Wassenaer-Leemhuis et al Rethinking preventive post-discharge intervention programmes for very preterm infants and their parents, *Dev Med and Child Neurol* 2016, 58(suppl.4):67-73**

The sensory environment

Further fascinating data from France about the preterm infant's ability to discriminate between tactile stimuli, with habituation developing from a very early age, comes from a study that shows how sensory stimuli in one modality may interfere with learning in others. **Lejeune F et al, 2016, Sound interferes with the early tactile manual abilities of preterm infants, *Nature Scientific Reports*.**

Infant-led feeding

The recent Cochrane review on responsive versus scheduled feeding for preterm infants (**Watson and McGuire 2015**) reports inconclusive evidence of benefit from nine, mostly small, RCTs. It is almost impossible for interventions such as infant feeding to achieve the methodological criteria for a strong RCT but "cue-based feeding" has nevertheless become widely accepted as good

practice in line with principles of individualised developmental care. An example of how this was introduced as a quality improvement project and the benefits (early attainment of "nipple" feeding and earlier discharge) are described in **Wellington A, Perlman JM, 2015, Infant driven feeding in premature infants: a quality improvement project, *J Arch Dis Child Fetal Neonatal Ed* 100:F495-F500.**

The Calmer Project

The team at the Children's & Women's Health Centre of British Columbia, led by Liisa Holsti, has invented a robotic platform to simulate skin-to-skin kangaroo care for infants who are too sick or fragile for the real thing. The device can be programmed to match the rise and fall of the mother's chest as she breathes and the sound of her heart beat (see press release at <http://bc.ctvnews.ca/b-c-breakthrough-helps-calm-preemies-too-fragile-to-be-held-1.2890256>). The purpose of the Calmer is to reduce stress and pain. Recruitment is underway for an RCT to see if infants receiving treatment with the Calmer will show lower behavioural pain scores and more stable autonomic regulation, than infants given a soother plus facilitated tucking (standard of care) during routine blood collection (<https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT01433588>).



New NIDCAP training centre for the UK

The NIDCAP Federation International has approved University College London Hospital as the new home for the UK NIDCAP Centre, with Professor Neil Marlow as Director. Contact the editor for more information.



Developmental Care Hotspots: New Zealand



Aukland

Five people from the Neonatal Unit at the Starship Childrens' Hospital in Aukland are the first to take the FINE programme to Australasia. Under the leadership of Dale Garton this team has always been quick to

appreciate new developments. Two nurses attended FINE Level 1 in Sheffield last year and jumped at the chance when the editor offered to hop across from Australia on a recent family visit. After a condensed version of Level 1, three of their colleagues joined up and we look forward to experimenting with Skype as a way to complete the programme.



Caring for your Baby in the Neonatal Unit: a Parents handbook.

We have a new batch of postcards with information about this book and how to order. If you would like some for parents on your unit please contact info@earlybabies.com.

The annual Ultra Early Intervention meeting in Stockholm blended familiar topics with new ideas and perspectives. Bob White brought us up to date on the implications of recent research on the environment, opening the debate on benefits and challenges of single rooms. The IBAIP, presented by Rod Hedlund, is topical again with a new trial planned for France, presented by Jean-Michel Roué. Carol Buxton (UK) and Annelies Verboom (Netherlands) explained how the FINE programme changed their lives; Esther Van der Heijden elucidated the mentoring and coaching components; Inga Warren proposed strategies for evaluation. Boubou Hallberg made a clear case for value based neonatal care and the team from Stockholm illustrated why Sweden is renowned for family centred developmental care. Anna Axelin described novel and very modern approaches to surveying parents' feelings. **The presentations are available to view at <http://ultra-early-intervention.creo.tv/2016>** Next year the main theme will be music therapy.

Would you believe it!

Rudeness affects your performance.

24 NICU teams took part in a training simulation of a preterm infant with necrotising enterocolitis and were observed by a "foreign expert". The teams randomly assigned to the control group were exposed to mildly rude statements that had nothing to do with their performance. Video analysis showed that diagnostic and procedural performance was lower in this group than in the group not exposed to rudeness. Riskin et al 2015, The impact of rudeness on medical team performance: a randomized trial, *Pediatrics* 136(3):487-495

Research project: Parent to Parent Support

Gillian Thomson at the University of Central Lancashire (UCLan), is surveying parent to parent support to explore issues such as: how peer supporters are selected; what training is provided; what issues are covered in the training programme; what support is offered to the peer supporters as well as facilitators, and barriers to effective peer support delivery. This international project is funded by a British Academy/Leverhulme grant. If you have any experience of parent to parent support in any country and would be willing to complete an on-line survey Gill would be very pleased to hear from you. GThomson@uclan.ac.uk.

Thanks to all of you who keep me up to date with research and news, including this month: Jacques Sizun, Gillian Kennedy, Emily Hills and Panagiota Nikopoulou-Smyrni

Edited by Inga Warren. Contact at inga@earlybabies.com. Publication of information in this newsletter does not necessarily imply that the editor agrees with it.

2016 – 2017 Dates for your diary

June 7-8	Portsmouth	FINE* Level 1: Foundation Toolkit for Family Centred Developmental Care. Contact: Carol.Buxton@porthosp.nhs.uk
June 8 - 10	Stockholm	Children's Rights and Early Intervention – International Society on Early Intervention conference. http://depts.washington.edu/isei/2016conf.html
June 15-16	Durham	FINE* Level1: Foundation Toolkit for Family Centred Developmental Care (Northern Network). Contact: training@bliss.org.uk
July 25-26	Dublin	FINE* Level 1: Foundation Toolkit for Family Centred Developmental Care. Contact: maoconnor@coombe.ie
August 22-26	Tacoma, USA	Fragile Infant Feeding Institute conference. Check for updates on facebook.com/FragileInfantFeedingInstitute/
August 23-25	Dalarna, Sweden	Nutrition and Nurture In Infancy and Childhood: Bio-Cultural Perspectives. Contact: Renée Flacking: rfl@du.se .
Sept. 6 th	Dublin	FINE* Level 2: Practical Skills for Family Centred Developmental Care. Contact: maoconnor@coombe.ie .
Sept. 8th	Bristol	FINE* Level 2: Practical Skills for Family Centred Developmental Care. Contact: Louise.Gould@UHBristol.nhs.uk .
Sept. 29th	London	Joint Annual Study Day for Professionals in neonatal Care: protecting Babies Brains. Contact admin@apcp.org.uk .
Oct. 11 -12	Portsmouth	FINE* Level 1: Foundation Toolkit for Family Centred Developmental Care. Contact: Carol.Buxton@porthosp.nhs.uk .
Oct. 18-19	London	FINE* Level 1: Foundation Toolkit for Family Centred Developmental Care. To be confirmed. Contact: training@bliss.org.uk .
Oct. 24	Geneva (EAPS)	European Association for Developmental Care SYMPOSIUM. Multisensory processing & developmental care. http://www.eadcare.org/site/en/training/training-research .
Oct.	London	FINE* Level 1: Foundation Toolkit for Family Centred Developmental Care. Contact: training@bliss.org.uk . Dates to be confirmed
Oct.	Sheffield	FINE* Level 2: Practical Skills for Family Centred Developmental Care. Contact: ingaw@bliss.org.uk . Dates to be confirmed
Nov.	London	FINE* Level 2: Practical Skills for Family Centred Developmental Care. Contact: ingaw@bliss.org.uk . Dates to be confirmed
March 1-4	Florida	The Annual Graven's conference: The Physical and Developmental Environment of the High Risk Infant.
March 23-24	Bristol	FINE* Level 1: Foundation Toolkit for Family Centred Developmental Care. Contact: Louise.Gould@UHBristol.nhs.uk .

*FINE (Family and Infant Neurodevelopmental Education) courses are supported by Bliss and the EFCNI. They have been endorsed by the NFI as foundations of NIDCAP education. Application for RCN accreditation is in progress.

