

Family reunification success after child institutionalization: Testing the effectiveness of a positive parenting intervention

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Participants

At least 150 parents of 6-to-11-year-old children at risk for family breakdown will participate in the study, as well as their child. Participants will be recruited from the 18 municipalities of the Douro Litoral region, in Portugal, through community and protective services.

Inclusion criteria are the following:

- a) The family is determined to receive parenting support or a parenting intervention
- b) To be a parent of a child aged 6-to-11-years-old
- c) The parent is willing to receive the intervention

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Exclusion criteria are the following:

- d) The child or the parents suffer from developmental disorders or severe cognitive disability or severe mental disorder
- e) The parent has been recovering from drugs or alcohol addiction in the last year
- f) The child or the parents are unable to understand European Portuguese
- g) The parents expose the child to a serious/violent conflict

Procedure

To evaluate the effectiveness of Standard Triple P, the research project supported the expenses related to the training and accreditation in the parenting intervention program. A total of



20 professionals became accredited practitioners of Standard Triple P. 16 are professionals developing their professional activities in the field of parenting education or interventions at the community with families at-risk and are currently implementing the intervention in the 18 municipalities of the Douro Litoral region, in Portugal. Four are members of the research team and are currently providing support in monthly peer-support and supervision meetings.

Participants recruitment is ongoing since November 2019. Parents are recruited at the local community services or local protective services and invited to participate in the study. They are informed of the study purposes and invited to integrate the study. They can either receive the STP immediately (intervention group) or after the last assessment wave (control group). Parents in the control group will immediately receive a Business as Usual Parenting Intervention.

Those who agree to participate give informed consent regarding their participation and their child's participation. Nevertheless, the research teams ask the child for their assent before the evaluation. Data anonymity and confidentiality are guaranteed.

The study follows a cross-sequential, longitudinal, quasi-experimental design, integrating measures for parents and children in four assessment waves, at baseline (before the intervention), three and six months after the baseline (see Tables 1 and 2). At nine months after the baseline, family breakdown is evaluated, and an interview is performed to the child, the parents and the practitioner, separately, to better understand multiple informants' perspectives on the reasons contributing to family reservation/breakdown.

Table 1. Parents' outcome variables at each assessment waves

Assessment wave 1	Parenting intervention	Assessment wave 2	Assessment wave 3
Baseline		3 months after baseline	6 months after baseline
Family sociodemographic characteristics		Family sociodemographic characteristics	Family sociodemographic characteristics
Verbal and abstract reasoning			
Parenting behaviors and styles		Parenting behaviors and styles	Parenting behaviors and styles
Psychological symptoms		Psychological symptoms	Psychological symptoms
Parental sense of competence, efficacy, and stress		Parental sense of competence, efficacy, and stress	Parental sense of competence, efficacy, and stress
Perceived stress		Perceived stress	Perceived stress
Relationship quality		Relationship quality	Relationship quality
Cortisol		Cortisol	Cortisol
Genetic polymorphism			
Child behavior and social competence		Child behavior and social competence	Child behavior and social competence
Child temperament			
Parent-child interaction	Parent-child interaction	Parent-child interaction	

Table 2. Children’s outcome variables at each assessment wave

Assessment wave 1	Parenting intervention	Assessment wave 2	Assessment wave 3
Baseline		3 months after baseline	6 months after baseline
Verbal and abstract reasoning			
Decision making			
Working memory			
Inhibition		Inhibition	Inhibition
Affect recognition		Affect recognition	Affect recognition
Parental affection		Parental affection	Parental affection
Perceived stress		Perceived stress	Perceived stress
Cortisol		Cortisol	Cortisol
Genetic polymorphism			

Canário, C., Abreu-Lima, I., Lemos, M., Henriques, M., Barbosa-Ducharne, M., Cruz, A., ... Cruz, O.(2020,February). Family reunification success after child institutionalization: Testing the effectiveness of a positive parenting intervention. Retrieved from osf.io/a53bj