

*University Affiliation:*

Purdue University  
Department of Child Development and Family Studies

*Project Abstract:*

Purdue University, in collaboration with Lafayette, Kokomo, and Marion Early Head Start (EHS) programs, will assess the social and emotional development of children enrolled in EHS. The study will work to answer the following questions: (a) Is the quality of EHS child-caregiver relationship associated with the level of child's social competence and behavior problems over time; and (b) How is EHS program service delivery type related to children's level of social competency, behavioral problems, and attachment to the EHS staff person? Participants will include 70 infants and their primary EHS child care providers. Data will be collected from EHS staff and children over a 6 month period. Data will include parent-child home visits and staff-child center or home visits. EHS parents and primary staff will complete questionnaires providing information about age, ethnicity, education level, family income, and current child care arrangements. Staff and parents will independently describe the child's behavior using a 3-point scale, and staff will rate their relationships with the child's parent using a 5-point scale. The Brief Infant Toddler Social-Emotional Assessment (BITSEA) will be used to measure child social competence, and the Safe and Secure Scale will be used to assess attachment to primary EHS staff. The researchers expect results from the study will help determine the long-term impact of EHS programs on infant mental health, and in infant/toddler social emotional competence.

*Sample:*

N=70 Infants and their primary caregivers.

*Measures:*

*EHS Staff*

The Brief Infant Toddler Social-Emotional Assessment (BITSEA)

The Safe and Secure Scale

**Christine M. Wade\***

*Project Title:*

Two-Session Group Parent Training for Bedtime Noncompliance in Head Start Children

*Grantee:*

Christine M. Wade

*Project Funding Years:*  
2003-2004

*University Affiliation:*  
Long Island University  
Clinical Psychology Doctoral Program

*Project Abstract:*

Sleep difficulties, especially night waking and bedtime struggles, are some of the most common childhood behavior problems. Sleep disruptions are associated with children's daytime behavior problems, impaired social functioning, poorer school performance, and even an increased probability of child abuse. Additionally, these disruptions have a number of negative consequences for members of the child's family, such as parental fatigue, marital discord, and detrimental effects on siblings. Of the evidence-based treatments for bedtime problems in young children, graduated extinction is the most widely used by clinicians. A number of studies have demonstrated its effectiveness. However, the generalizability of these findings to children from ethnic minority and low socioeconomic backgrounds has not been established. Additionally, the vast majority of studies in this area have examined interventions that are delivered individually. Given the potential advantages of group treatments, it seemed prudent to examine the efficacy of an intervention delivered to groups of parents. In an interrupted time series design, 5 parents of children aged 4 - 5 enrolled at a Head Start preschool site participated in one of two groups that received group parent training on the use of graduated extinction. Parents reported that their children demonstrated large reductions in both bedtime and daytime behavior problems from pretest to posttest, and parents reported decreased depression and stress during this period. At 2-month follow up, gains in the children's bedtime behavior were maintained. Parents also reported that improvements in their children's daytime behavior as well as their own depression and stress remained significantly improved from baseline, although there was some regression toward baseline levels. Overall, parents reported high levels of satisfaction with the intervention.

*Sample:*

N= 5 Head Start parents and their children

*Measures:*

*Parent*

Early Childhood Inventory-4

Children's Sleep Habits Questionnaire (CSHQ)

Eyberg Child Behavior Inventory (ECBI)

Parenting Stress Index-Short Form (PSI-SF)

Beck Depression Inventory-II (BDI-II)  
Therapy Attitude Inventory (TAI)