

British Early Childhood Education Research Association Conference (BECERA)
Birmingham, 15 and 16 February 2012: *What knowledge we generate from
the research process?*

Title of Proposal

Generating knowledge through the Parent Child Home Programme (PCHP)

Author of Proposal

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Research Aims

To improve educational outcomes for participants through the co-creation of knowledge.

Relationship to other research:

Research shows that early learning is the foundation of all subsequent learning (Allen 2011). A child's intellectual development is closely linked to the amount and quality of verbal interaction they receive (Levenstein 1971). Incorporating the findings of an independent evaluation (Share et al 2011), success came from integrating research and practise to improve outcomes (Senge and Scharmer 2001).

Theoretical Framework:

PCHP is an evidenced-based programme, which support parent-child interactions. Community action research (Senge and Scharmer, 2001) supported the creation of a learning community of home visitors and families.

Paradigms and Methods:

The action reflective cycle helped inform the development and implementation of the programme (McNiff and Whithead 2006). A social, collaborative and dialogic approach (Wong 2009) added to the depth of shared knowledge.

Ethical Considerations:

The National College of Ireland's Code of Conduct for Researchers was observed. Good practice in relation to action research was followed.

Main Findings:

Parents are more focused on quality time with their child, felt it made learning fun; Home Visitors expressed a great deal of satisfaction with their jobs. Easily identified in their blue uniform Home Visitors have become ambassadors for the programme, and an accessible point of contact for PCHP on the street.

Implications and Practice:

The knowledge gained informs and enhances programme delivery and ensures ownership and buy in from parents and Home Visitors – and all the children involved in the programme.

Keywords:

Knowledge, ownership, community buy in, action research