Western University Scholarship@Western

Psychology Presentations

Psychology

7-1-2006

Why Did Mothers with Unresolved Trauma Fail to Benefit from an Attachment Based Intervention? Correlates of Unresolved Status in a High Risk Sample

Heidi Bailey University of Western Ontario

Greg Moran University of Western Ontario, gmoran2@uwo.ca

Carey Anne DeOliveira University of Western Ontario, Careyanne.deoliveira@css.gov.on.ca

Karin Gleason University of Western Ontario, kgleason@uwo.ca

David R. Pederson University of Western Ontario, pederson@uwo.ca

Follow this and additional works at: http://ir.lib.uwo.ca/psychologypres



Part of the Developmental Psychology Commons

Citation of this paper:

Bailey, Heidi; Moran, Greg; DeOliveira, Carey Anne; Gleason, Karin; and Pederson, David R., "Why Did Mothers with Unresolved Trauma Fail to Benefit from an Attachment Based Intervention? Correlates of Unresolved Status in a High Risk Sample" (2006). Psychology Presentations. Paper 4.

http://ir.lib.uwo.ca/psychologypres/4

WHY DID MOTHERS WITH UNRESOLVED TRAUMA FAIL TO BENEFIT FROM AN ATTACHMENT BASED INTERVENTION? CORRELATES OF UNRESOLVED STATUS IN A HIGH RISK SAMPLE

Heidi Bailey, Greg Moran, Carey Anne DeOliveira, Karin Gleason, and David R. Pederson The University of Western Ontario

WAIMH Paris July 2006





With more than a little assistance from...

- Sandi Bento, Research Coordinator
- Carey Anne DeOliveira (CPRI, London)
- Heidi Neufeld Bailey (U of Guelph)
- Jen Phillips
- Karin Gleeson
- Ann Krupka
- Ann Robson

- Erinn Hawkins
- Sheri Madigan
- Lindsey Forbes
- Elspeth Evans
- Acia Blank
- Anneli Sepa
- Deanne Pederson
- and others, including countless London area mothers and their babies

Generous funding from: Health Canada, SSHRC, and OMHF





The Western Adolescent Parenting Study Determinants of Intervention Outcome

- The Risks of Adolescent Parenthood
 - Jaffe (2001) New Zealand study on developmental outcome for children of adolescent mothers
- Study Objectives
 - Identify factors related to intervention success and failure



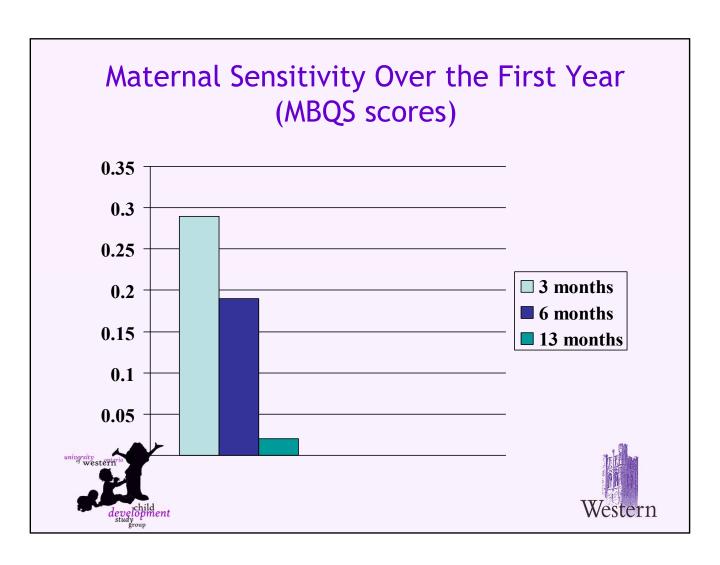


The Intervention Study - Goals

- Improve the security of the attachment relationship by supporting the mother's sensitivity
 - Build rapport with mother
 - Affirm parenting strengths while viewing a 5-minute videotape of the mother and infant at play
 - Augment mother's awareness of infant signals







Study Design

- Adult Attachment Interview at 6-months
- Maternal sensitivity assessed in home visits at: 6-months - baseline,

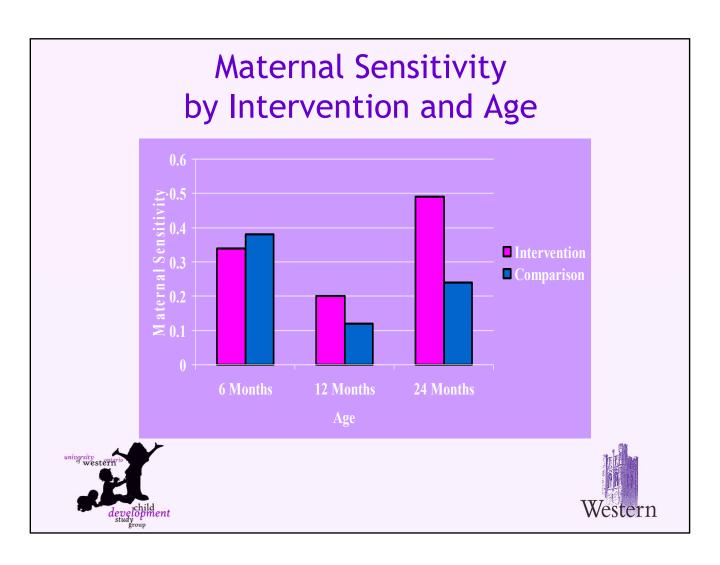
12-months - post-intervention

24-months - follow-up

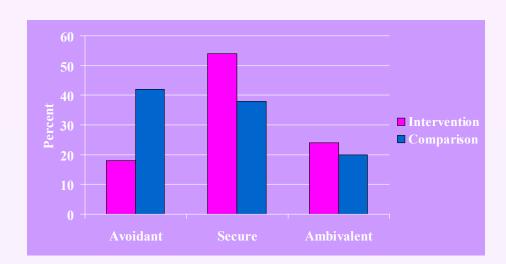
- Strange Situation at 12-months
- Comparison and Intervention Groups
 - 8 home visits between 7 & 12 mos





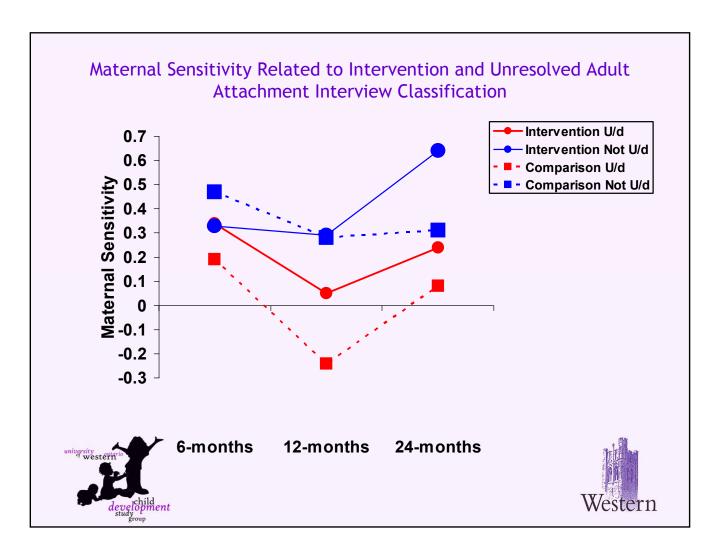


Attachment Classifications Intervention and Contrast Groups









With Success, a New Challenge

- A developmentally based home visiting program that encourages young mothers' skills supports sensitivity and security
- This interaction-focused intervention appears to be most effective with mothers who are not Unresolved
- A distinct approach seems necessary with mothers with Unresolved states of mind and a history of trauma - but what sort of approach???

Where Next!?

 Pursue a better understanding of the psychological consequences of physical and sexual abuse



Unresolved Attachment and Trauma Symptoms

- Questionnaires:
 - Trauma Symptom Inventory (TSI)
 - Borderline scale of Personality Assessment Inventory (PAI)

Unresolved Mothers reported MORE:

Dissociative Symptoms Identity Confusion Relationship Problems*





Unresolved Attachment and Trauma Symptoms

The Problem:

- Self-report measures are limited by people's limited awareness.
- Unresolved mothers: limited awareness.
- -> Assessment validity?





Assessing Relational Processes: Projective Techniques

Transference Themes

Perception of Infant Emotions





Assessing Transference

Karin Gleason, Ph.D., C.Psych.





Assessing Transference

Previous experience with relationships

Cognitive representations of relationships

Expectations for a new relationship

Behaviour in relationship





Core Conflictual Relationship Themes

(Luborsky et al., 1986)

- Within each narrative:
 - wishes, needs or intentions
 - response of the other
 - response of the self

- Overall scores:
 - identify repeated themes,
 - their congruence,
 - their inflexibility





- Do you see [your parents] very much?
- I see my dad more than I see my mom.
 And I didn't get to see them till B was (wish to be close)
 3 months old.
- What happened when you told them about the pregnancy?
- They told me not to call them back. (other rejecting)

- And how was that for you?
- I don't know, I have (partner's) family so it wasn't that bad.

(self response: comfortable)





Recurring CCRT Themes: Rejection from Other Adults

Unresolved: others were Rejecting: 94%

Not Unresolved: others were Rejecting: 58%



Autonomous: others as understanding, helpful

Relationship Themes with Infants: Response of Self

Unresolved: self as Disappointed and Depressed (28%)

Not Unresolved: self as Respected and Helpful (39%)





Congruence: Wishes & Others' Response

Unresolved: 42% congruence

Not Unresolved: 51% congruence





Inflexibility: Response of Others

Unresolved: 71% inflexibility

Not Unresolved: 56% inflexibility



Overall, wishes of adolescent mothers were rigid and inflexible



Transference: Implications for Intervention

- Unresolved mothers:
 - themes of rejection, disappointment
 - lack of flexibility
- How will this affect:
 - Expectations for mother-infant relationship?
 - Interpretation of infant's behaviour?
 - Ability to benefit from intervention?

Assessing Mothers' Perceptions of Infant Emotions

Carey Anne DeOliveira, Ph.D., C.Psych







Experience of emotions in early relationships

Perception of own and others' emotions

Perception of their infant's emotions

Response to their infant

Lack of understanding of emotions

Expectations of others' responses

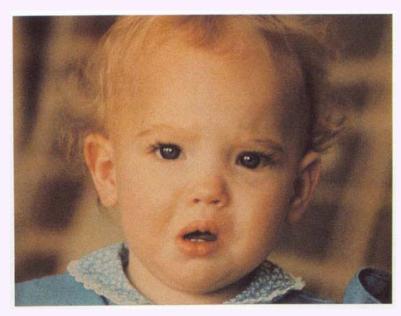
Projection of own feelings





IFEEL Pictures

(Emde, Osofsky, & Butterfield, 1993)







Perceived Emotions

Unresolved Mothers perceived LESS: Content

Unresolved Mothers perceived MORE: Surprise

Shame/Guilt Passivity





Perceived Emotions: Atypical Responses

• Used by <5% of the reference sample (Emde et al., 1993)

Unresolved Mothers reported MORE: Atypical

Responses





Perception of Emotions: Implications for Intervention

- Unresolved mothers:
 - perceive different emotions (more passive, shame, surprise)
 - have atypical perceptions of infant emotions
- How will this affect:
 - behaviour toward infant?
 - awareness of distortions?



Summary: Implications for Intervention

- Assess relational processes using:
 - self-report and projective techniques
 - behavioural observations
- Interventions to address:
 - attributions and expectancies within mothers' awareness, and
 - automatic/implicit responses withininteractions and to emotion cues