

RESEARCH BYTES

Children, Youth and Families



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KENT SCHOOL MAKING A DIFFERENCE

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These preliminary results provide evidence to support the potential for the homeBase intervention and MI for engaging parents in school-based settings.

Although the practice of MI might be a departure from many CW agencies' established approaches, the challenges of engaging families and the dire outcomes when families cannot be engaged, argue for continued testing.

MESSAGE FROM THE ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR RESEARCH

Many Kent School scholars are engaged in research associated with promoting the well-being of children and their families, and working in collaboration with community organizations who serve them, including schools, child welfare and behavioral health. These recent publications focused on understanding and meeting the needs of children and families in our society through innovative interventions.

PARENT ENGAGEMENT

Frey, A., Small, J.W., Lee, J., Crosby, S.D., Seeley, J.R., Forness, S., & Walker, H.M. (2019). homeBase: Participation, engagement, alliance, and social validity of a motivational parenting intervention. *Children and Schools*. <https://doi.org/10.1093/cs/cdz016>

HomeBase is an intervention using motivational interviewing (MI) and behavioral coaches to address parent engagement of elementary-level students. Although 21% of parents seemed unable to engage in the intervention, those who participated were highly engaged, developed effective relationships with coaches, and perceived homeBase to be socially valid. Strategies for school social work programs and school districts to promote parent engagement are discussed.

CHILD WELFARE

Hall, M.T., Sears, J., & Walton, M.T. (2020). Motivational interviewing in child welfare services: A systematic review. *Child Maltreatment*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1077559519893471>

This systematic review found that motivational interviewing's (MI) impact on family outcomes were mixed, but paired with other evidence-based treatments showed positive results. Training of child welfare workers and students was difficult to assess, although trainees generally had favorable perceptions of MI, and increased empathy and self-efficacy was observed in some studies. There is a lack of studies examining the impact of MI on maltreatment and few on out-of-home care placement.

Those adolescents who experienced domestic violence in their family of origin were more accepting of violence in their dating relationships, but that relationship education attenuated those effects.

The role of empathy emerged as most salient in shaping mothers' coparenting experiences.

Parenting practices that were linked to the most beneficial emotional functioning included a protective factor at the family level, maternal monitoring; a risk factor at the family-level, maternal psychological control; and a protective factor, or asset, at the individual level, adolescent ethnic identity.

ADOLESCENT RELATIONSHIP ATTITUDES

Antle, B. F., Karam, E., Barbee, A. P., Sullivan, D., Minogue, A. & Glover, A. (2020). Intergenerational transmission of intimate partner violence and its impact on adolescent relationship attitudes: A qualitative study. *Journal of Loss and Trauma*, <https://doi.org/10.1080/15325024.2019.1634894>

This study explored the intergenerational transmission of intimate partner violence and the potential impact of the Love U2 relationship education program on the process. Qualitative analysis identified themes such as knowledge gained regarding types of violence, communication, the cycle of violence, the effects of substance abuse on relationship, what adolescents want for their future children, and how to share relationship information with others.

FATHERHOOD

Perry, A.R., Rollins, A., & Perez, A. (2020). *Full Report: Fatherhood and Coparenting*. Fatherhood Research & Practice Network. <https://www.frpn.org/asset/frpn-grantee-report-fatherhood-coparenting>

This study built on the 4 Your Child project which integrates responsible parenting, economic stability and relationship education for fathers at risk for paternal disengagement by offering their coparenting partners a workshop and mediation services. Statistically significant main effects were found for intervention group mothers on conflict-resolution skills and coparenting relationship quality. Recommendations for engaging custodial mothers early are discussed.

SOCIO-EMOTIONAL FUNCTIONING OF AFRICAN AMERICAN YOUTH

Sterrett-Hong, E.M., Kincaid, C., Hardaway, C.R., Adams, M., MacFarlane, M., & Jones, D.J. (2020). Individual- and family-level correlates of socio-emotional functioning among African American youth from single-mother homes: A compensatory resilience model. *Journal of Family Issues*, <https://doi.org/10.1177/0192513X19891461>

This study examined risk and protective factors in African American adolescents from single-mother homes. Lower levels of psychological control, and higher levels of monitoring and youth ethnic identity were associated with depressive symptoms, hopelessness and/or self-esteem. Interventions targeting maternal psychological control, and youth ethnic identity and self esteem are encouraged.