

The effectiveness of a psycho-educational program for child witnesses and victims of domestic violence.

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The aim of this study is to evaluate whether and how much children exposed to domestic violence benefit from the program "En nu ik...!" (Now it's me!).

Ethical review	Approved WMO
Status	Recruitment stopped
Health condition type	Other condition
Study type	Interventional

Summary

ID

NL-OMON33254

Source

ToetsingOnline

Brief title

The effectiveness of the psycho-educational program "En nu ik...!"

Condition

- Other condition

Synonym

domestic violence, emotional- and behavioral problems

Health condition

emotionele- en gedragsproblemen

Research involving

Human

Sponsors and support

Primary sponsor: Vrije Universiteit

Source(s) of monetary or material Support: Ministerie van OC&W, subsidie ZonMW

Intervention

Keyword: children, domestic violence, psycho-educational program, RCT

Outcome measures

Primary outcome

- Emotional and behavioral problems of the child (CBCL/TRF, CDI)
- Posttraumatic stress symptoms of the child (TSCYC, TSCC)
- Bond between parent and child (FIT, AEED, DAI)

Secondary outcome

- Parenting stress (NOSIK)
- Mental health of the parent (IES-R en HADS)
- Possible useful factors of the program (Questionnaire for children about dealing with difficult situations)

Study description

Background summary

Each year about 100.000 children are exposed to domestic violence in the Netherlands. These children are at a heightened risk for developing emotional and behavioral problems, and posttraumatic stress symptoms. Although psycho-educational programs for these children have been developed, these programs have not been evaluated in a RCT so far.

Study objective

The aim of this study is to evaluate whether and how much children exposed to domestic violence benefit from the program "En nu ik...!" (Now it's me!).

Study design

The design is a pretest-posttest two group randomized control design with a pretest assessment before the program (T1), a posttest assessment directly after the program (9 sessions, three months, T2) and a follow-up assessment six months later (T3, 9 months after first test T1).

Intervention

Children and their parents who consent to take part in the research are randomly assigned to either the intervention-condition and will follow the program "En nu ik...!" (Now it's me!) or the control-condition and will follow the program "Jij hoort erbij" (You belong too). Both programs consist of nine sessions of 1,5 hours each for children, with nine parallel sessions for the non-violent parents. In "En nu ik...!" specific attention will be paid to the domestic violence, while in "Jij hoort erbij" the same structure will be followed, with storytelling, creative activities and gross motor activities, but the topic of domestic violence will not be discussed.

Study burden and risks

The psycho-educational program "En nu ik...!" (Now it's me!) runs in different institutions across the country for over more than ten years now, and participation doesn't seem to be risky. Participation in the research could be a small inconvenience for children, because during the sessions and while filling out the questionnaires they may be reminded of the domestic violence they witnessed. Children are monitored during the measurement times by trained researchers and when participation is deemed too stressful for the child he or she will be asked to stop (temporarily). In other researches at the effectiveness of a similar program children experienced no negative consequences of filling out the questionnaires.

During participation in the program "En nu ik...!" the domestic violence will be a topic as well, but if children don't feel comfortable discussing the violence they don't have to participate in the conversations, but can choose to only listen. Usually children enjoy participating in play activities with other children who experienced the same. During their participation in the program children will be monitored closely and be referred to more individual help when necessary. Six months after completing the control-program "Jij hoort erbij" children can attend "En nu ik...!".

Children participating in both programs ("En nu ik...!" and the play group and positive attention program "Jij hoort erbij" (You belong too)) seem to benefit from participation. It is not known which program helps children the best to cope with their experiences, so it's not clear whether participation in the trial may lead to assignment to a non-effective intervention.

Contacts

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Trial sites

Listed location countries

Netherlands

Eligibility criteria

Age

Children (2-11 years)

Inclusion criteria

- The child has witnessed domestic violence.
- In the child's current living situation domestic violence does not occur.
- The child is aged between 7 and 12 years.
- Parents have given informed consent for participation in the research.

Exclusion criteria

- The child has a intellectual disability.
- The behavioral problems of the child are so severe he/she can not function in a group.
- Parent and/or the child does not speak or comprehend Dutch sufficiently to participate in the program.

- One of the parents or both parents don't want the child to participate in the research.

Study design

Design

Study type:	Interventional
Intervention model:	Parallel
Allocation:	Randomized controlled trial
Masking:	Open (masking not used)
Control:	Active
Primary purpose:	Prevention

Recruitment

NL	
Recruitment status:	Recruitment stopped
Start date (anticipated):	14-09-2009
Enrollment:	140
Type:	Actual

Ethics review

Approved WMO	
Date:	25-08-2009
Application type:	First submission
Review commission:	METC Amsterdam UMC

Study registrations

Followed up by the following (possibly more current) registration

No registrations found.

Other (possibly less up-to-date) registrations in this register

No registrations found.

In other registers

Register

CCMO

ID

NL26649.029.09