

Effects of Regular foster care compared to Therapeutic foster care for young foster children with psychological problems.

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Aim is to compare the development of children placed in foster care without receiving treatment (regular foster care) and children placed in foster care and receiving treatment (therapeutic foster care). Research outcomes determine the effect of...

Ethical review	Approved WMO
Status	Will not start
Health condition type	Developmental disorders NEC
Study type	Observational non invasive

Summary

ID

NL-OMON36090

Source

ToetsingOnline

Brief title

Regular Foster Care vs. Therapeutic Foster Care

Condition

- Developmental disorders NEC
- Family issues

Synonym

behavioral problems, insecure attachment

Research involving

Human

Sponsors and support

Primary sponsor: Academisch Medisch Centrum

Source(s) of monetary or material Support: ZonMw

Intervention

Keyword: Attachment problems, Behavioral Problems, Regular Foster Care, Therapeutic Foster Care

Outcome measures

Primary outcome

*decrease of symptoms of insecure attachment and an increase of secure attachment (behavior and physiology)

*recovery of normal cortisol activity

*decrease of behavioral problems

Secondary outcome

*decrease of trauma, anxiety and depression symptoms

*decrease of parental stress and increase of co parenting.

Study description

Background summary

Many foster children show attachment and behavioral problems, abnormal cortisol levels and atypical physiological responses within caregiver-child interactions (Fisher, Stoolmiller, Gunnar & Burraston, 2007; Fisher & Stoolmiller, 2008; Oosterman, de Schipper, Fisher, Dozier & Schuengel, 2010). All this jeopardizes the stability of placements (Cook, Blaustein, Spinazzola, & Van der Kolk, 2003; Oosterman, Schuengel, Slot, Bullens & Doreleijers, 2007). Placement failure may start a vicious circle in which the chance of another failure increases with every breakdown. The final option, institutional placement, is wrought with its own risks for pathological outcomes (Curtis, Alexander & Lunghofer, 2001).

In order to prevent children from residential rearing it is important to provide foster children of the most suitable form of foster care, as early in

life as possible. Foster care is offered in two variants: (1) Regular Foster Care, *care* is limited to minor foster parent and foster worker contacts and (2) Treatment Foster Care, wherein children receive intensive and active forms of treatment (MTFC-P and TFC).

The study *Effects of Regular foster Care compared to therapeutic foster care for young foster children with psychological problems* compares the development of children in regular and therapeutic foster care in order to provide foster care workers of tools to consider which of the child* problems will reduce after foster family placement a which problems require active forms of treatment.

Study objective

Aim is to compare the development of children placed in foster care without receiving treatment (regular foster care) and children placed in foster care and receiving treatment (therapeutic foster care).

Research outcomes determine the effect of foster family placement on children*s development and subsequent, comparison with children in therapeutic foster care establishes the effect of treatment over the effect of foster family placement.

Study design

Using a quasi experimental design (researchers are blind), we include 40 foster children without receiving treatment and compare them to 80 children receiving a protocollised treatment; MTFC-P or TFC (random allocation). Propensity score matching will statistically correct for confounders.

The study consists of five measurements:

1. 4-6 weeks after start
2. after 3 months
3. after 6 months
4. after 9 months
5. after 12 months (end of treatment)

Study burden and risks

No more risks are expected for foster children that participate in the study.

Contacts

Public

Academisch Medisch Centrum

meibergdreef 5
1105AZ Amsterdam
NL
Scientific
Academisch Medisch Centrum

meibergdreef 5
1105AZ Amsterdam
NL

Trial sites

Listed location countries

Netherlands

Eligibility criteria

Age

Children (2-11 years)

Inclusion criteria

Young foster children

Exclusion criteria

Foster children older than 8 years

Study design

Design

Study type:	Observational non invasive
Intervention model:	Other
Allocation:	Non-randomized controlled trial

Masking:	Open (masking not used)
Control:	Active
Primary purpose:	Treatment

Recruitment

NL	
Recruitment status:	Will not start
Start date (anticipated):	01-10-2011
Enrollment:	40
Type:	Anticipated

Ethics review

Approved WMO	
Date:	31-10-2011
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	ID
CCMO	NL37022.018.11