

A decorative graphic on the left side of the slide, consisting of a vertical black line intersecting a horizontal black line. To the left of the intersection are three overlapping squares: a blue one on top, a red one on the left, and a yellow one on the bottom.

Early Intervention with children and families

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The aim of the paper

- To explore underpinning issues
- To outline key research
- To generate key themes of early intervention
- To suggest a practice and policy template
- Summary and challenges



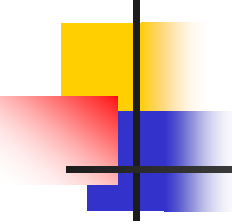
Underpinning issues

Conference questions:

- Integrating justice and social policy
- Long-term prevention
- Political challenge

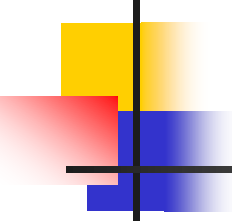
Paper themes:

- Political challenge
- Research base
- Policy and practice implications



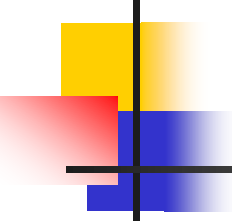
Key research example – Perry High Scope

- Michigan in the 1960's
- African American 3-5 years olds
- 2.5 hours of day care for the children during the week/active learning/child-centred model/home visiting program
- 15/19/27/40 years of age research follow up
– control and intervention group



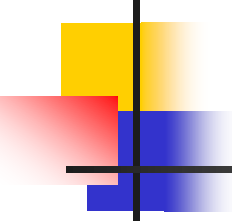
Key research example – Perry High Scope

- 'crime reduction is a major benefit of this program' (Heckman et al., 2009, p.11)
- Arrests for all crime: Female – control group 4.85, intervention group, 2.20
Male- control group 12.41, intervention group, 8.21



Key research example – Perry High Scope

- Bellfield et al undertook an overall Cost Benefit Analysis and estimate that \$12.90 is saved from public costs for every \$1 invested and argue that 'program gains come mainly from reduced crime by males'



Key research example – Perry High Scope

The role of ideology is identified by the following:

- 'the children from this program have in reality become welfare moms and hardened criminals'

(Idaho Coalition of Home Educators,
www.iche-idaho.org/issues/34/)



Central themes

- State-based/nationwide – e.g. anti-poverty programmes
- Community-based, targeted initiatives e.g. Sure Start
- Family-focused, intervention or support programmes e.g. parenting programmes



Levels of intervention

- Primary - universal
- Secondary - targeted
- Tertiary – ‘heavy-end’



Statham and Smith analysis

- recognition and identification
- cost effectiveness
- effective interventions



Policy and practice

- Support (rather than intervention)
- Reflective professional practice (rather than targets)
- Multi-professional (rather than silo)
- Community-based (rather than top down)
- Multi-method (rather than single initiative)
- Family Group Conferences



Challenges

- Providing convincing, contemporary research evidence
- Winning the investment battle
- Re-focus away from reactive child protection / criminal justice responses



Summary

- Values and ideology
- Contribution of research
- Continuum of services across the matrix
- Multi-agency, multi-method, family support services