

Early - Positive Approaches to Support (E-PAtS)

*Working with families and children
at risk of behaviour that challenges*

TIZARD
University of Kent

Tizard Centre

 **The Challenging
Behaviour Foundation**
making a difference to the lives of people with severe learning disabilities

The Aim

The aim of E-PAtS is to reduce the risks of behaviour that challenges **before a crisis** is reached and to limit the impact of such behaviour on children, families and professionals.

The situation

Children with **learning disabilities** experience difficulty in communicating, understanding and controlling the world around them.

Many also suffer physical health complications and face negative situations in their daily lives that often lead to serious family and social problems later on.

Some of these children are **at risk of behaviour that challenges** such as aggression and self-injury. These behaviours have a significant impact on the wellbeing and quality of life of:

- **The child**
- **Their family**
- **Others who support them**

Without intervention, behaviours that challenge often continue into adulthood, presenting further difficulties for individuals, families and services.

The solution

Research and clinical practice both suggest that the **risks** of behaviour that challenges **can be reduced** by better recognising and meeting the needs of children with learning disabilities.

Far too often this support is only provided at a late stage when individuals and families are **at a crisis point**.

The Early – Positive Approaches to Support (E-Pats) project focuses on supporting families and children with learning disabilities from an early age.

It is intended to be a working model of good practice that will further influence health, social and educational support services.

The Team

E-PAtS is run from the **Tizard Centre** and co-ordinated by **Dr Nick Gore** who has been awarded the Patricia Collen Fellowship.*

Nick is working in association with **Peter McGill**, also from the Tizard Centre, the **Challenging Behaviour Foundation** and an advisory group of family carers, professionals and other interested parties.

The Structure

Core Project

E-PAtS will deliver a package of best practice supports to **35** families with children who have a learning disability and are at high risk of developing behaviour that challenges.

At the start of the project, identified children will be under **5-years old** and present with a combination of risk factors supported by the research literature.

A range of outcomes that reflect the experiences of both these children and their families will be evaluated over time.

The E-Pats Network

The E-PAtS team will aim to identify **other examples** where early support for behaviour that challenges has been put into practice.

E-PAtS will provide additional guidance and direct input to professionals to develop and evaluate their early intervention work.

E-Pats will create a **professionals network** to disseminate and sustain all learning.

Getting Involved

If you are interested by the work of E-PAtS or have any questions or ideas, we would like to hear from you. Here are some ways you could help:

Families and individuals –tell us about your experiences and give advice on what

is needed to better support behaviour that challenges

Practitioners and Researchers –let us know of how you are providing early support for behaviour that challenges

Policy makers – inform us of new developments and allow us to share examples of our learning

Others– make a donation to allow the continuation and development of work from E-PAtS

Contacts

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*The fellowship was made possible by legacy funding from the estate of Patricia Collen who spent the majority of her life within Normansfield Hospital, in the United Kingdom.