Coercive parenting
What do we know - what can we do about it?

Stepping Stones - Triple P Positive Parenting for parents of children with a disability

HFCC Conference 2016
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What is this presentation about?

- What is coercive parenting?
- Why should we be concerned?
- How common is coercive parenting?
- My Say - Measuring coercive parenting
- Stepping Stones program rollout - outcomes
- Where to from here?
Acknowledgements

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  - Professor Matt Sanders
Coercion

The action or practice of persuading someone to do something by using force or threats
Coercive parenting...
Coercive parenting: the evidence
Typically developing children
What we know......

Adverse child experiences have been associated with:

- Child aggression
- Poorer quality parent-child relationship
- Child mental health issues
- Altered brain development
Coercive parenting practices are common

Western Australian survey 4 – 11 years
- 21% parents reported disciplining their children at least daily

Queensland survey
- 70.8% likely/very likely to shout
- 43% likely to give a single smack

Ontario parents survey
- 43% parents lost their temper due to non-compliance

(Silburn et al 1996; Sanders et al, 1999; Best Start, 2014)
What about children with developmental disabilities?

Children with developmental disabilities/developmental delay are more likely to be exposed to coercive parenting compared to their non-disabled peers.

(Sullivan & Knudson, 2000)
Coercive parenting
The Stepping Stones Triple P project
My Say QLD

- N = 367
- Child age – 6.17 (2.45) years
- Child gender – 74% male
- Parent age – 32.22 (6.24) years
- 94% mothers
- Disability type
  - ASD – 73%
  - ID – 25%
- Language delay/disorder – 30%
Measuring coercive parenting...

PAFAS – Coercive parenting scale (5 items)

- I get annoyed with my child
- I shout or get angry with my child when they misbehave
- I argue with my child about their behaviour or attitude
- I try to make my child feel bad for misbehaving (e.g. guilt or shame) to teach them a lesson
- I spank/smack my child when they misbehave
I get annoyed with my child.

- Most of the time: 8.3%
- Quite a lot: 21.6%
- Some of the time: 60.7%
- Not at all: 9.5%
I shout / get angry at my child

- Not at all: 12.6%
- Some of the time: 49.8%
- Quite a lot: 27.2%
- Most of the time: 10.4%
I argue with my child

- Most of the time: 3.2
- Quite a lot: 9.5
- Some of the time: 34.5
- Not at all: 52.9
I try to make my child feel bad.....

- Not at all: 65%
- Some of the time: 28.4%
- Quite a lot: 4.6%
- Most of the time: 0%
I smack/spank my child

- Most of the time: 0.5%
- Quite a lot: 4.8%
- Some of the time: 46.8%
- Not at all: 49.5%
Predictors of coercive parenting
For parents of children with disabilities, what factors, modifiable and unmodifiable are associated with coercive parenting practices?
What we investigated...

Demographics

Child factors

Parenting factors
Predictors of coercive parenting demographics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Demographics</th>
<th>Coercive parenting</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Child age *</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age parent *</td>
<td>14.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child disability</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>- language disorder *</td>
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# Predictors of coercive parenting - child behaviour

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Child Behaviour</th>
<th>Coercive parenting</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Child behavioural and emotional problems ***</td>
<td>16.8%</td>
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## Predictors of coercive parenting

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parenting</th>
<th>Coercive parenting</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Confidence (less)</td>
<td>**</td>
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<tr>
<td>Consistency (less)</td>
<td>***</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adjustment (poorer)</td>
<td>**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parent – child relationship (poorer)</td>
<td>**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>16.3%</td>
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**Total variance = 47.5%**
Reducing the risk of Coercive parenting
Reducing the risk of coercive parenting

Increase the number of parents of children with a disability who complete evidence-based parenting programs

To enhance parenting competence and confidence at a population level

To reduce the prevalence of child social, emotional and behavioural problems at a population level
The Triple P System of Intervention

- **Level 1**: Intensive family intervention
- **Level 2**: Broad focus support - *Seminar*
- **Level 3**: Narrow focus support - *Primary Care*
- **Level 4**: Broad focus support - *Group*
- **Level 5**: Intensive family intervention

**Breadth of reach**

**Intensity of intervention**
Stepping Stones Triple P program
25 strategies

- Developing a positive relationship (3)
- Encouraging desirable behaviour (5)
- Teaching new skills and behaviours (6)
- Developing self-regulation (11)
Parent and Family Adjustment Scale
(Pre program – 12 month follow-up)

- Parental consistency: 4.2, 3.8, 5.5
- Coercive parenting: 4.39, 3.5, 3.5
- Positive encouragement: 1.64, 1.46, 2.1
- Parental adjustment: 6.71, 5.62, 5.44
Coercive Parenting
(p < .001, d = 1.04)

I get annoyed with my child

I argue with my child about their behaviour or attitude

I spank (smack) my child when they misbehave

I try to make my child feel bad for misbehaving to teach them a lesson

I shout or get angry with my child when they misbehave

T1  T2  T3

1.35
1.163
0.51
0.39
0.35
0.51
0.4
0.35
0.72
0.53
0.6
1.3
Parental Adjustment
(p<.001, d=1.14)

I feel stressed or worried
I feel happy
I feel sad or depressed
I feel satisfied with my life
I cope with the emotional demands of being a parent
Child Behaviour
(Pre program – 12 month follow-up)

DBC CAPES-DD
T1 T2 T3

N=98 N=127
Where to from here?

Stepping Stones - Triple P Positive Parenting for parents of children with a disability
Disclosure statement

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- Julie Hodges is not an author on any Triple P program but does work at UQ and in the PFSC and is a member of the Triple P Research Network

- Julie is a Triple P trainer
Questions and Comments

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