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**▶ Promoting supportive parenting in new mothers with substance use problems: a pilot randomized trial of residential treatment plus an attachment-based parenting program.**

**Berlin L. J., Shanahan M. et al.**

**Infant Mental Health Journal: 2014, 35(1), p. 81–85.**

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*After intensive coaching in parenting conducted with mother and child together, randomly selected mothers in residential treatment demonstrated more sensitive parenting than mothers not allocated to the programme, promising to intercept inter-generational transmission of poor parenting.*

**SUMMARY** This pilot randomised trial tested the feasibility and efficacy of supplementing residential substance use treatment for new mothers with a brief, yet rigorous, attachment-based parenting programme – the home-based Dozier's Attachment and Biobehavioral Catch-up (ABC) intervention. This involved a trained ABC coach working at home in the residential centre with mother and child together for 10 sessions, aided by reviews of video-recorded mother-child interactions. 21 mothers and their infants living together in the residential centre were randomly assigned to the programme or to act as a [control](#) group who instead received 10 brief, home-based appointments with the same people who delivered the parenting programme, during which enquiries were made about mother and infant well-being. Post-intervention observations of parent and child together revealed more supportive parenting behaviours among the mothers assigned to the ABC intervention. It was a limitation of the current study that parenting behaviours could not be assessed both before as well as after the intervention, which would have provided more specific information about how each individual changed.

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