

GUIDEBOOK

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Dare to be You

Review: [Foundations for Life](#), July 2016

Dare to be You (DTBY) aims to reduce the likelihood of adolescent substance misuse by promoting family resilience in at-risk families with a child between the ages of two and five years old.

Families meet for 10 to 12 weekly sessions over three or four months for two hours of string-activity workshops plus a family meal.

Evidence
rating: **2+**

Cost rating:
NA

EIF Programme Assessment

Dare to be You has **preliminary evidence** of improving a child outcome, but we cannot be confident that the programme caused the improvement.

Evidence
rating: **2+**

What does the evidence rating mean?

Level 2 indicates that the programme has evidence of improving a child outcome from a study involving at least 20 participants, representing 60% of the sample, using validated instruments.

This programme does not receive a rating of 3 as its best evidence is not from a rigorously conducted RCT or QED evaluation.

What does the plus mean?

The plus rating indicates that a programme's best available evidence is based on an evaluation that is more rigorous than a level 2 standard but does not meet the criteria for level 3.

Cost rating

NA indicates that the information required to generate a cost rating is not available at this time.

Cost rating:
NA

Child outcomes

According to the best available evidence for this programme's impact, it can achieve the following positive outcomes for children:

Enhancing school achievement & employment

Improved child developmental level

Based on study 1

Preventing crime, violence and antisocial behaviour

Reduced problematic behaviour

Based on study 1

This programme also has evidence of supporting positive outcomes for couples, parents or families that may be relevant to a commissioning decision. Please see the 'About the evidence' section for more detail.

Key programme characteristics

Who is it for?

The best available evidence for this programme relates to the following age-groups:

- Toddlers
- Preschool

How is it delivered?

The best available evidence for this programme relates to implementation through these delivery models:

- Group

Where is it delivered?

The best available evidence for this programme relates to its implementation in these settings:

- Children's centre or early-years setting

The programme may also be delivered in these settings:

- Primary school
 - Secondary school
 - Sixth-form or FE college
 - Community centre
-

How is it targeted?

The best available evidence for this programme relates to its implementation as:

- Targeted selective
-

Where has it been implemented?

United States

UK provision

This programme has not been implemented in the UK.

UK evaluation

This programme's best evidence does not include evaluation conducted in the UK.

About the programme

What happens during delivery?

How is it delivered?

- Dare to be You is led by two preschool teachers who lead groups of families for 10 to 12 weekly sessions, over three or four months, of two-hour workshops that include a family meal. The sessions are offered during the duration of a preschool programme and booster sessions can be included at the end.

What happens during the intervention?

- Dare to be You is led by two preschool teachers who lead groups of families for 10 to 12 weekly sessions, over three or four months, of two-hour workshops that include a family meal. The sessions are offered during the duration of a preschool programme and booster sessions can be included at the end.
- Parents and their children attend the programme together.
- The parent component focuses on personal and parenting efficacy, stress management, child development, and home management skills based on the four 'Dare to be You' principles:
 - Decision-making and problem-solving skills
 - Assertiveness in communication and conflict management
 - Responsibility for one's behavior, including internalised control and stress management
 - Esteem for oneself (eg self-efficacy) and others.
- The child component builds cognitive skills, mastery motivation, social competencies, emotional knowledge and problem solving, decision making, self-management and communication skills. A key topic is covered at each workshop with developmentally appropriate activities for all ages.
- The family component includes weekly family meals, social time and joint parent-child activities.
- An incentive programme enhances recruitment and encourages programme completion, including family meals, a supportive, non-judgmental environment that builds on family strengths and a financial incentive for completion of all workshops (\$200 for each adult family member that completes the programme).

What are the implementation requirements?

Who can deliver it?

Not available

What are the training requirements?

Not available

How are the practitioners supervised?

Not available

What are the systems for maintaining fidelity?

- Fidelity monitoring
- Face-to-face training
- Training manual

Is there a licensing requirement?

Not available

How does it work? (Theory of Change)

How does it work?

- Dare to Be You aims to increase children's readiness to learn by teaching parents and children skills that promote children's mastery motivation and behavior self-regulation.
- Parents learn methods for encouraging children's prosocial behavior and supporting their cognitive development. Parents also learn age-appropriate strategies for limiting unwanted child behaviours.
- Children engage in activities aimed at increasing their persistence in difficult tasks and interacting positively with other children.
- In the short term, parents show increased self-efficacy, an increase in positive parenting practices and a decrease in harsh discipline. Children show increased mastery motivation and reduced oppositional behavior.
- In the long term, children are less likely to engage in risky behaviours and achieve well at school.

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<http://dtby.colostate.edu/>

<http://legacy.nreppadmin.net/ViewIntervention.aspx?id=65>

<http://www.childtrends.org/programs/dare-to-be-you/>

<http://www.theathenaforum.org/sites/default/files/DARE%20to%20Be%20You%203-27-12.pdf>

About the evidence

Dare to be You's most rigorous evidence comes a single RCT which was conducted in the USA.

This study identified statistically significant positive impact on a number of child and parent outcomes.

This programme is underpinned by one study with a Level 2+, hence the programme receives a Level 2+ rating overall.

Study 1

Citation: Miller-Heyl et al (1998) | **Design:** RCT

Country: United States | **Study rating:** 2+

Sample: 802 parents with a child between two and five attending Head Starts in the southwestern USA

Timing: Post-test; one-year follow-up; two-year follow-up

Child outcomes:

Improved child developmental level

Reduced problematic behaviour

Other outcomes:

Increased sense of competence

Increased satisfaction

Improved parenting strategies

Miller-Heyl, J., MacPhee, D., & Fritz, J.J. (2003). DARE to be You: A Family-support, early prevention program, *The Journal of Primary Prevention*. 18, 257-285.

Available at <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1023/A:1024602927381>

Study design and sample

The first study is an RCT.

This study involved random assignment of children to a DTBY treatment group and a control group.
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This study was conducted in the US, with a sample of parents and children aged between 2 and 5 years of age attending Head Start preschools at four separate sites involving at-risk, native American/Hispanic populations. 50.8% of the participants earned less than \$15,000 in annual income.

Measures

Parental self-perceived competence and satisfaction with the parental role were measured using two scales from the Self-Perceptions of the Parental role (SPPR) (parent report). Parent locus of control was measured using the IPC (Internal, Powerful Others, and Chance) Scale (parent report). Parental causal attributions (lack of ability, lack of effort, situational, child blame) were measured using vignettes (parent report). Child-rearing attitudes (Limit setting, Autonomy, Communication, Stress) were measured using the Parent-Child relationship inventory (PCRI) (parent report). Child-rearing practices (Harsh Punishment, Rational Guidance) were measured using 12 researcher-developed questions (parent report).

Child oppositional behaviour and problem behaviour were measured using the Behaviour Checklist for Infants and Children (BCIC) (parent report). Child developmental level was measured using the Minnesota Child Development Inventory (MCDI) (parent report).

Findings

This study identified statistically significant positive impact on a number of child and parent outcomes.

Child outcomes include:

- Reduced problematic behaviour
- Improved developmental level

The conclusions that can be drawn from this study are limited by methodological issues pertaining to unclear differential attrition, baseline equivalence, and intent-to-treat analysis, hence why a higher rating is not achieved.

Other studies

The following studies were identified for this programme but did not count towards the programme's overall evidence rating. A programme receives the same rating as its most robust study or studies.

MacPhee, D., & Fritz, J. (1999). DARE to Be You replication project, Colorado Sites: Final Evaluation Report.

MacPhee, D., & Miller-Heyl, J. (2001). Head Start-University Partnership Grant, Dare to Be You Project: Final Evaluation Report. DHHS grant 906D0011.

Miller-Heyl, J., MacPhee, D., & Fritz, J.J. (1998). DARE to be You: A Family-support, early prevention program, *The Journal of Primary Prevention*, 18, 257 – 285.

MacPhee, D., Miller-Heyl, J., & Carroll, J. (2014). Impact of the DARE to be You family support program: Collaborative replication in rural counties. *Journal of Community Psychology*, 42, 707-722. doi:10.1002/jcop.21647

Guidebook

The EIF Guidebook provides information about early intervention programmes that have at least preliminary evidence of achieving positive outcomes for children. It provides information based on EIF's assessment of the strength of evidence for a programme's effectiveness, and on detail about programmes shared with us by those who design, run and deliver them.

The Guidebook serves an important starting point for commissioners to find out more about effective early interventions, and for programme providers to find out more about what good evidence of impact looks like and how it can be captured. As just one of our key resources for commissioners and practitioners, the Guidebook is an essential part of EIF's work to support the development of and investment in effective early intervention programmes.

Our assessment of the evidence for a programme's effectiveness can inform and support certain parts of a commissioning decision, but it is not a substitute for professional judgment. Evidence about what has worked in the past offers no guarantee that an approach will work in all circumstances. Crucially, the Guidebook is not a market comparison website: ratings and other information should not be interpreted as a specific recommendation, kite mark or endorsement for any programme.

[How to read the Guidebook](#)

[EIF evidence standards](#)

[About the EIF Guidebook](#)

EIF

The Early Intervention Foundation (EIF) is an independent charity and a member of the What Works network. We support the use of effective early intervention for children, young people and their families: identifying signals of risk, and responding with effective interventions to improve outcomes, reduce hardship and save the public money in the long term.

We work by generating evidence and knowledge of what works in our field, putting this information in the hands of commissioners, practitioners and policymakers, and supporting the adoption of the evidence in local areas and relevant sectors.

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