



The Modifying Attributions of Parents: a project to enhance the understanding of parent-infant relationships and the prevention of caregiver stress.

The Modifying Attributions of Parents (MAP) is a manualised combination of assessment and intervention for caregivers (of children 0 to 6 years of age) who have expressed concern about their child's behavioural difficulties and are deemed at potential risk for maltreatment. This intervention focuses on the parent's interpretations of, and attributions for her child's behaviours. Over the course of the treatment, the clinician and parent collaborate to build upon the parent's strengths and to recognize and modify the parent's negative attributions for their child's behaviour.

Evaluation: Pre-treatment and post-treatment evaluations include observational and psychometric assessment of sensitivity, attributional style, potential for maltreatment, parental stress, confidence, depression and perception of child problems.

Results: A pilot study to evaluate this approach (for 3-6 year-olds) is currently underway at Aisling Discoveries. Preliminary outcome findings point to parental changes with regard to parental attributions, potential for child abuse, and some areas of parental stress levels, as well as rigidity.