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Dr Debbie Allen BSc PhD

Research Fellow

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About

Debbie Allen is a postdoctoral researcher who works at the **Cerebra Centre for Neurodevelopmental Disorders (http://www.cndd.bham.ac.uk/)** . She is currently funded by the National Autistic Society.

Qualifications

PhD, BSc

Working towards eligibility to sit exam to become a Board Certified Behavior Analyst

Biography

Dr Allen came to the University of Birmingham in 2003 after completing her PhD at Keele University. Previously she worked as a senior practitioner in a Community Learning Disability Team and as a program supervisor in Early Intensive Behavioural Intervention programs for young children with Autism.

Teaching

Recent teaching on UK Master Courses in Applied Behaviour Analysis

Postgraduate supervision

Currently Co-supervision with **Chris Oliver (/staff/profiles/psychology/oliver-chris.aspx)** .

Research

Dr Allen's research interests are mainly within the field of Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA) with a particular interest in individuals with intellectual disabilities and rare genetic syndromes. More specifically, the assessment and treatment of challenging behaviour such as self-injury. Her other interests include:

- Staff / parent training
- General methodological issues in ABA
- Functional Analysis methodology
- Treatment integrity

Current Research

Remote Consultancy for Self-injurious Behaviour in Young Children with Autism: A pilot project. Funded by the National Autistic Society, September 2010-November 2011

This pilot project is designed to evaluate the effects and logistics of an external consultancy and staff training package on levels of self-injurious behaviour in children attending a specialist Autism school. Consultancy, which will be focused on data-based assessment, decision-making and intervention for self-injurious behaviour, will be delivered via email, telephone, web-based video consultation and limited site visits. The staff training package will be delivered during workshops (face to face and via video-conference). Other effects of the package will also be explored such as staff feelings of competency and level of knowledge when dealing with SIB pre and post-training

Past Research

- Early Intervention for Young Children at High Risk for Developing Severe Challenging Behaviour (May 2007). Funded by Baily Thomas Charitable Trust
- The Origins and Early Development of Self-Injurious Behaviour in Young Children with Severe Intellectual Disabilities (2003-2007). Funded by the Baily Thomas Charitable Trust
- The Origins and Early Development of Self-Injurious Behaviour in Young Children with Severe Intellectual Disabilities Follow-up (2007). Funded by the Baily Thomas Charitable Trust
- The Assessment of Self-injurious Behaviour in Children with Smith-Magenis Syndrome (2006-2007)
- Treatment Integrity in Early Behavioural Educational programs for Young Children with Autism. Funded by Autism and Developmental Disorders Education Research by way of PhD studentship (1999 – 2003)

Publications

Publications

Allen, D. J., Oliver, C., Petty, J. et al. Behavioural Intervention in Challenging Behaviour in Children with Angelman Syndrome. (In preparation)

Allen, D.J., Mudford, O.C., & Cullen, C. The Effects of Self-Recording on Treatment Integrity in Discrete-Trial Teaching. (In preparation)

Allen D. J. Analysis and treatment of spitting with non-contingent reinforcement and response blocking. (In preparation).

Allen D.J. Therapist use of environmental arrangement strategies and incidental teaching for a child with autism using a picture exchange communication system (PECS) (In preparation).

Presentations

Behavioural Intervention for Challenging Behaviour in Children with Angelman Syndrome (Patricia Howlin Prize Lecture). Society for the Study of Behavioural Phenotypes 13th Research Symposium, Pavia (2011).

Experimental and Functional Analysis of Self-injurious Behaviour in Smith-Magenis Syndrome: Preliminary Results. Seattle Club Conference, Kendal (2006).

The Field Effectiveness of Self-Recording on Treatment Integrity in Discrete-Trial Teaching. Treehouse Trust, London (2002)

The Use of a Pyramidal training Approach to Increase Treatment Integrity in Discrete-Trial Teaching. Treehouse Trust, London (2002).

Accuracy in Discrete trials Training in Clinic- and Parent-managed Early Behavioural Intervention for children with Autism. Applied Behaviour Analysis Convention, New Orleans, 2001

Accuracy and Rate in Discrete trials Training in Clinic- and Parent-managed Early Behavioural Intervention for children with Autism. Experimental Analysis of Behaviour Group conference, London, 2001

Tutor Accuracy in Discrete Trials training. Parents for the Early intervention for Autism in Children (PEACH) Young Autism Project (YAP) London, 2001

The Effects of Self-Recording on Treatment Integrity in Discrete-Trial Teaching. Treehouse Trust, London (2001).

Tutor Accuracy in Discrete trials Training. PSYPAG, Glasgow, 2000

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