

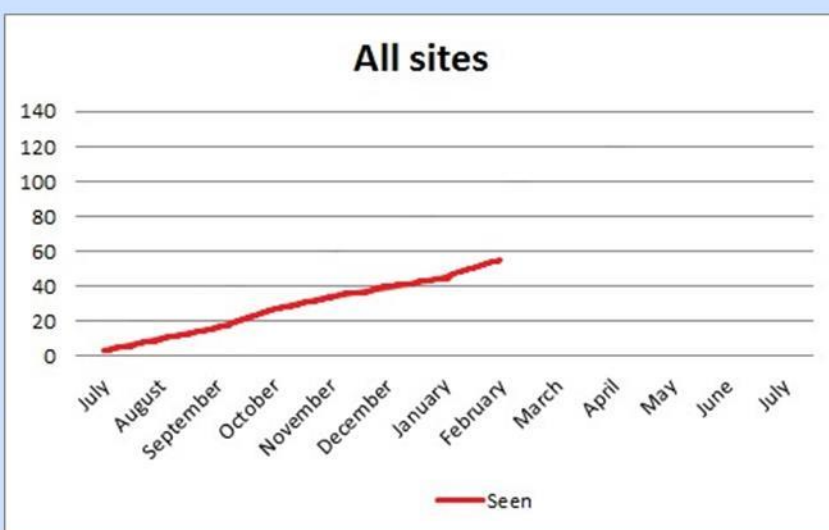
PACT Newsletter

Pre-school Autism Communication Trial



PACT 7-11 Update

The PACT 7-11 team began getting in touch with families in August 2013 and so far the response to the follow up has been overwhelmingly positive. In Manchester we have seen 23 of the 52 families and are approaching the halfway mark! The London research team is in a similar position having seen 25 of their 52 families and Newcastle have seen 20 of their 48, overall we have been in contact with 68 of the 152 PACT families nationwide. It has been lovely to catch up with the PACT families and hear how our children are getting on. Some wonderful progress has been made. It has also been so important to our research to hear about the challenges some families are facing in middle childhood and how the transition to secondary school has gone for the older children. We hope to be in touch with the remaining families over the next couple of months so we can see everyone by early Autumn. Thank you once again for your commitment to the study, it has been a pleasure seeing you all again and we look forward to catching up with the rest of you soon!



New assessment for the follow-up study

The "MIPO"

As children enter middle childhood peer interaction becomes more important. As our PACT children are now in school we wanted to look at the interaction between them and their classmates, particularly during an unstructured setting such as the school playground.

The MIPO (Manchester Inventory for Playground Observation) is a new assessment that has been developed at the University of Manchester. It is a ten minute playground observation.



A researcher stands in the playground at break time and watches the child carefully but unobtrusively, so the child is not aware they are being observed.



The researcher makes note of things like which activities the child chooses to engage in and what happens during any interactions with other children. We are very excited about this measure and hope that it will provide invaluable insight into school life and the kinds of interactions the PACT children have with their peers.

PACT 7-11 Time Diary

Another new assessment that we are using in the follow-up is a time diary which parents fill out. It covers a period of 2 days in a parent's life— one week day and one weekend day. We will ask parents to record activities undertaken throughout each of the 24-hour periods. The activities are split into those relating to your PACT child and those not relating to your PACT child.

WEEKDAY 06:00 TO 12:00 (midday)	06:00-07:00	07:00-08:00	08:00-09:00	09:00-10:00	10:00-11:00	11:00-12:00
Caring for your child in the PACT study		X	X			
Personal care e.g. dressing, bathing			X	X		
Helping with eating and drinking				X	X	
Interacting/socialising/playing						
Behaviour or emotional management	X	X			X	X
Supervision of your PACT child			X	X		
Transport to/from school				X	X	
Attending health care or other appointments						
Taking your PACT child shopping						
Other activities eg trips/visiting friends/family						X
Organising help/dealing with finances						
Housework directly related to your PACT child						
Home maintenance related to your PACT child						
Putting your PACT child to bed						
Any other activities involving your PACT child						

By completing this diary parents will be providing us with valuable information about the time that they spend caring for and supporting their child with autism over and above what parents with a typically developing child would be doing.

This will help improve our understanding of the additional needs of children with autism and to better quantify the level of support received by children with autism in their own homes, which may contribute to future developments to support children with autism and their families.

What will happen next?

If you have not yet been contacted by the PACT 7-11 team then in the coming months we will phone you to discuss the study with you and whether you would like to be involved.

If you have already taken part in this phase of the study, many thanks! We will be sending further newsletter updates to keep you informed about the progress of the study and the key findings. We hope to have these by the beginning of 2015.

It would help us greatly if you could get in touch to tell us about any change of address or phone number. You are also very welcome to get in touch to find out more about the study. Our contact details are below.

Take a look at our website on: <http://bbmh.manchester.ac.uk/pact>



Our contact details

Please contact Hannah—

By phone: 0161 306 7964
(Please leave a message if we don't answer and we'll call you back)

By email: hannah.tobin@manchester.ac.uk

We look forward to being in touch soon!

Your local research team

You will remember Kathy Leadbitter from the original PACT study. We are happy to announce that she is expecting her first child in April and will be on maternity leave from then.



Hannah Tobin is the Research Assistant working on the PACT 7-11 Study. She will be taking over from Kathy and we will have a new researcher on the team from April. We look forward to seeing you soon!

