

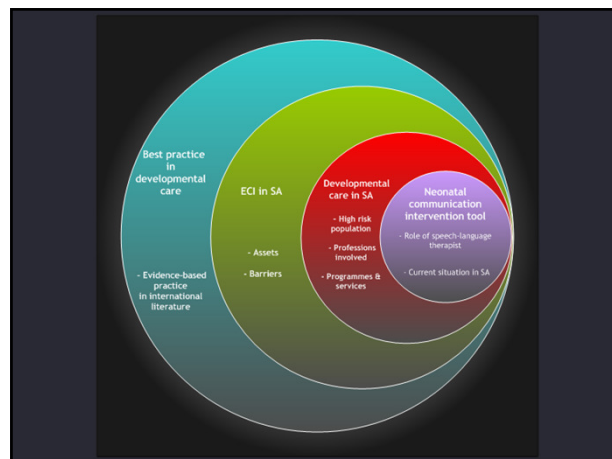
THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NEONATAL COMMUNICATION INTERVENTION TOOL



Presented by Ms Esedra Strasheim
Department of Communication Pathology
University of Pretoria
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UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA
YUNIBESITHI YA PRETORIA



OBJECTIVES

- To describe **the perceptions** of speech-language therapists and audiologists providing early communication intervention services in provincial hospitals in South Africa **regarding their role in the neonatal nurseries.**
- To identify **participants' needs** in terms of neonatal communication intervention instruments/tools.
- To select and justify a **specific need** of the participants in terms of **neonatal communication intervention instruments/tools** in the public hospital context.
- To **compile a preliminary instrument/tool** based on the selection of one of the perceived needs of the participants.
- To **pre-test** the completed instrument/tool and make changes if necessary.



METHODOLOGY

Participants:

- 6 of the 9 provinces (Gauteng, Kwazulu-Natal, Eastern Cape, North West, Northern Cape and Mpumalanga)
- Had to provide early communication intervention to infants in a neonatal nursery such as a neonatal intensive care unit (NICU), a neonatal high care ward or KMC ward
- N = 41



Professional qualifications	SLP = 49 % SLP & Audiologist = 46% Audiologist = 5 %
Provinces where employed	Eastern Cape = 5% Gauteng = 8% Kwazulu-Natal = 25% Mpumalanga = 29% Northern Cape = 28% North West = 5%
Years of experience in government sector	1 year or less = 25 participants 2 years = 6 participants 3 years = 3 participants 5 years or more = 6 participants
Contexts of service provision (participants indicated more than one working context)	Clinics/community health centres = 26 participants District/regional hospital = 30 participants Tertiary/academic hospital = 12 participants Other = 1 participant
Wards where EI was provided	NICU = 14 participants Neonatal high care unit = 23 participants Kangaroo mother care ward = 20 participants
Number of SLPs and/or audiologists in the department	1 = 15 participants 2 = 10 participants 3 = 5 participants 4 or more = 11 participants
Trained interpreters or assistants at their disposal	Yes = 10 % No = 90 %

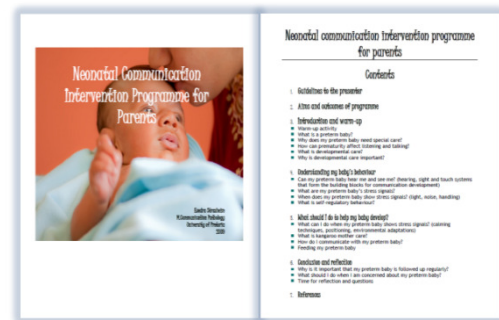
THERAPISTS' NEEDS



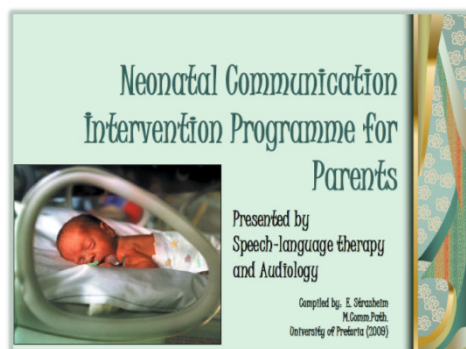
CONTENT OF PROGRAMME



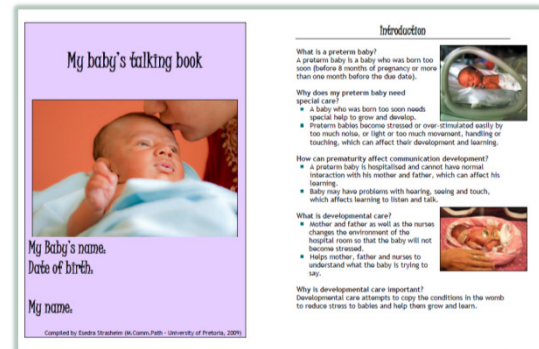
THERAPIST'S MANUAL



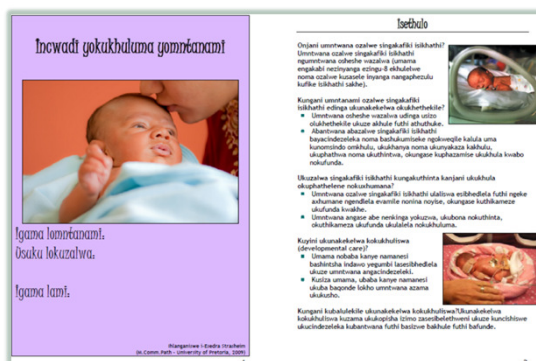
POWERPOINT™



HANDOUTS



HANDOUTS



CLINICAL AND THEORETICAL IMPLICATIONS

- Identified and attempted to **fulfil in a need expressed** by speech-language therapists and audiologists.
- Highlighted the **role of the speech-language therapist and audiologist** in terms of prevention of communication delays and disorders.
- Could also be used for **raising awareness of early communication intervention** services within a certain community.
- **Emphasised involvement in community work** and not only in the lives of individual families.
- Highlighted information on the **roles of speech-language therapists and audiologists in the neonatal care** of high risk infants in the public health sector.



CONCLUSION

- Strengths
- Limitations

The increased prevalence of infants at risk for communication disorders in South Africa (Kritzinger, 2000:13) necessitates early interventionists to become involved in clinical and research efforts in developing ECI services for provincial hospitals.

