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Landscape

## Translating Knowledge to Informed Practice in the Early Intervention

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**Aims:** The Early Intervention Programme for Infants and Children (EIPIIC) Consultancy team<sup>1</sup>, aimed to build the capabilities of 3 EIPIIC centres through the implementation of a service-delivery framework that were underpinned by five key early intervention (EI) principles: family-centred practice, transdisciplinary team practice, natural and inclusive environments, developmentally appropriate intervention, active and functional child engagement (the latter 3 principles are subsumed into functional assessment and intervention). Through the framework that consisted of on-site consultations and coaching in 6 phrases across 2 years, a prospective cohort study was conducted to determine whether gains in knowledge of key early intervention principles were positively translated into informed practice.

<sup>1</sup>The EIPIIC Consultancy consisted of a team of medical and allied health professionals from DCD, KKH and CDU, NUH.

**Methodology:** 28 early interventionist completed the Staff Questionnaire - EI Principles (SEIP), designed to evaluate knowledge and informed practice of EI principles, at 4 time points (before Phase 1: Workshops, at the end of Phase 1, Phase 4: Onsite coaching and Phase 5: Review). Their responses were qualitatively analyzed into themes.

**Result:** The number of themes associated with the knowledge of family-centred practice, trans-disciplinary team practice, and functional assessment and intervention principles increased at the end of Phase 5. The themes for informed practice also increased only for family-centred practice and trans-disciplinary team practice while the number of themes remained the same for functional assessment and intervention.

**Conclusion:** There was a positive increase in knowledge and translation of knowledge to informed practice for family-centred practice and trans-disciplinary team practice. To translate knowledge into informed practice that is sustainable, the EIPIIC consultancy recommends for centers to develop an effective supervision and coaching framework for staff to ensure the delivery of evidence-based practices. This in turn will lead to effective intervention services in achieving optimal outcomes for the children and their families.