Assessment of Implementation Quality in Parenting Programs: Establishing Quality Standards to Improve Practice and Research

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Eurofam

What I talk about when I talk about implementation?

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Implementation science refers to the use of systematic data collection and research methods to enhance the dissemination and sustainment of evidence-based practices into routine operations.

(Proctor & Brownson, 2012)

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(Proctor & Brownson, 2012)

Is there any assumption in this definition?

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Blueprints

FOR HEALTHY YOUTH DEVEL

FIND PROGRAMS BLUEPRINTS CERTIFICATION NEW

PROGRAM OUTCOMES +

TARGET POPULATION +

PROGRAM SPECIFICS −

- Home Visitation
- Juvenile Justice - Other
- Leadership and Youth Development
- Mentoring - Tutoring
- [x] Parent Training
- Peer Counseling and Mediation
- Police Crime Prevention
- Probation Services
- Recreation - Leisure - Community Service
- Restorative Justice
- School - Environmental Strategies

RISK AND PROTECTIVE FACTORS +

Clear Search

Screenshot

Program Search

This interactive search enables you to identify Blueprints-certified interventions based on specific criteria and then browse through a wide range of interventions that match those criteria. Select only a few criteria of importance, as the number of interventions may be reduced by selecting multiple items ACROSS categories, or increased by selecting multiple items WITHIN categories.

Model and Model Plus programs are listed separately from Promising programs. This is because only Model and Model Plus programs have demonstrated efficacy for changing outcomes over time and are recommended for large-scale implementation. Promising programs show promise of efficacy, but require follow-up research before being recommended for large-scale adoption.

25 Programs

Export to Excel | Copy Search URL

Model & Model Plus: 5 | Promising: 20

PROGRAM	RATING	SUMMARY
GenerationPMTO Target Population Outcomes Fact Sheet	Blueprints CERTIFIED MODEL+ PROGRAM	A family training program that aims to teach effective family management skills in order to reduce antisocial and problematic behavior in children through trainings implemented in a variety of formats and settings.
Family Foundations Target Population	Blueprints	A universal prevention program designed to improve birth outcomes, reduce family aggression, enhance child mental

Where are our well-known programs?

	Model	Promising
Incredible Years		
Strengthening Families		
Triple P		

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Where are our well-known programs?

	Model	Promising
Incredible Years		✓
Strengthening Families		✓
Triple P		✓

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Why?

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Strengthening Families Program

Developed in early 1983

Used in 50 states of the U.S. and around 40 countries

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1983
Burn 10 lt gas in 100 km



2021
Burn 4-5 lt gas in 100 km

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What is our approach to program development?

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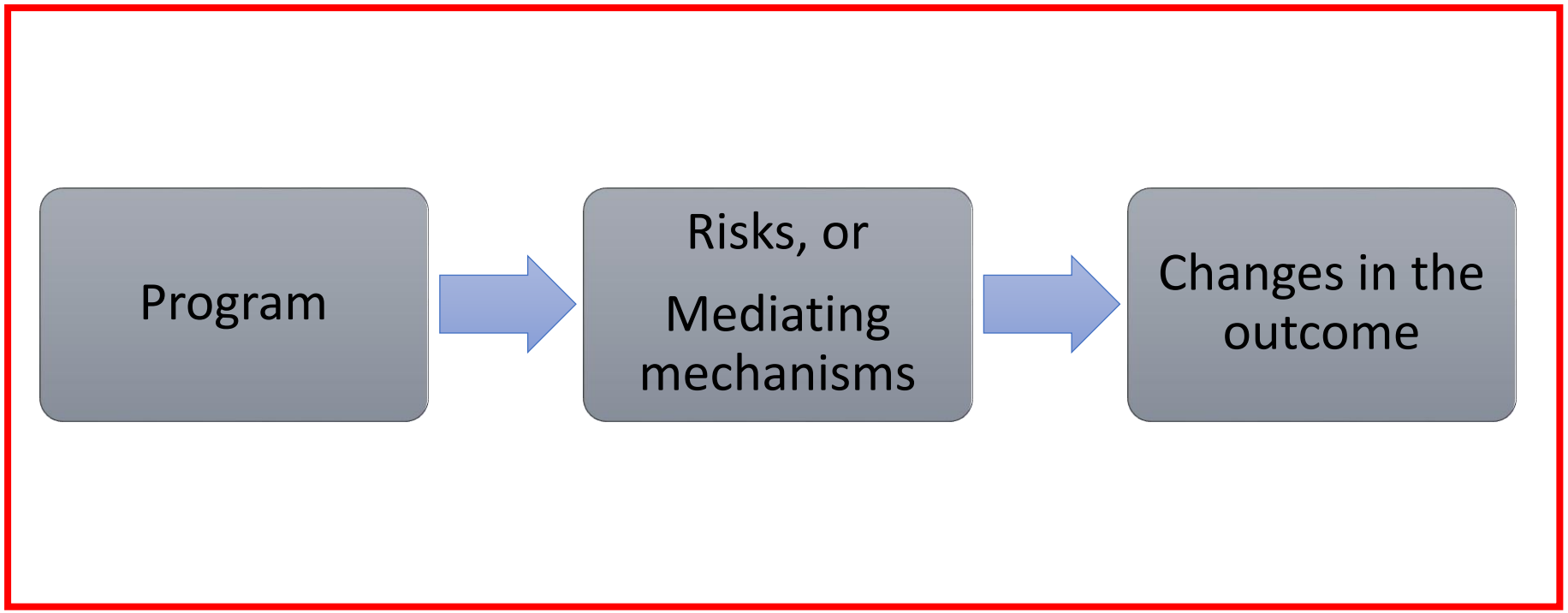
Unplugged:

School based alcohol, tobacco, substance use prevention program

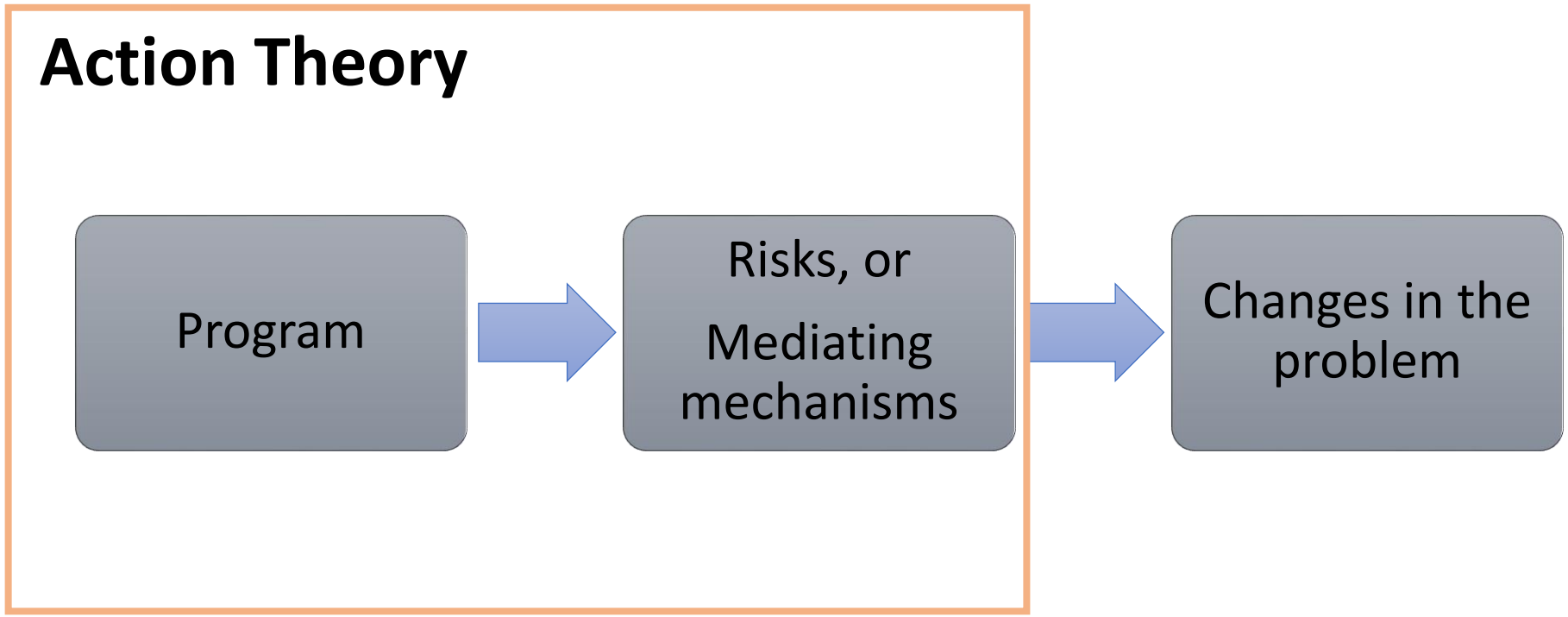
- Reviewed available RCT studies on substance use
- Identified the effective components
- Developed a new program based on the components of the **effective** programs

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Program Theory

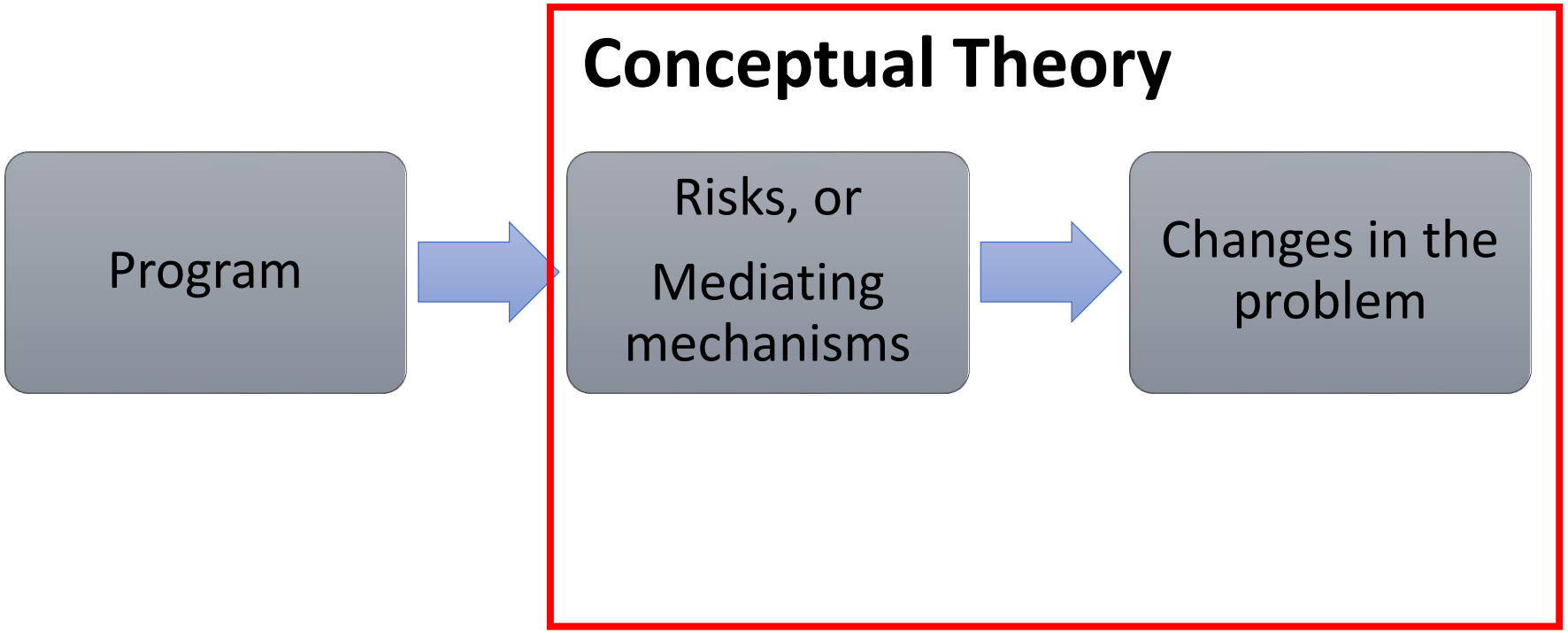


Program Theory



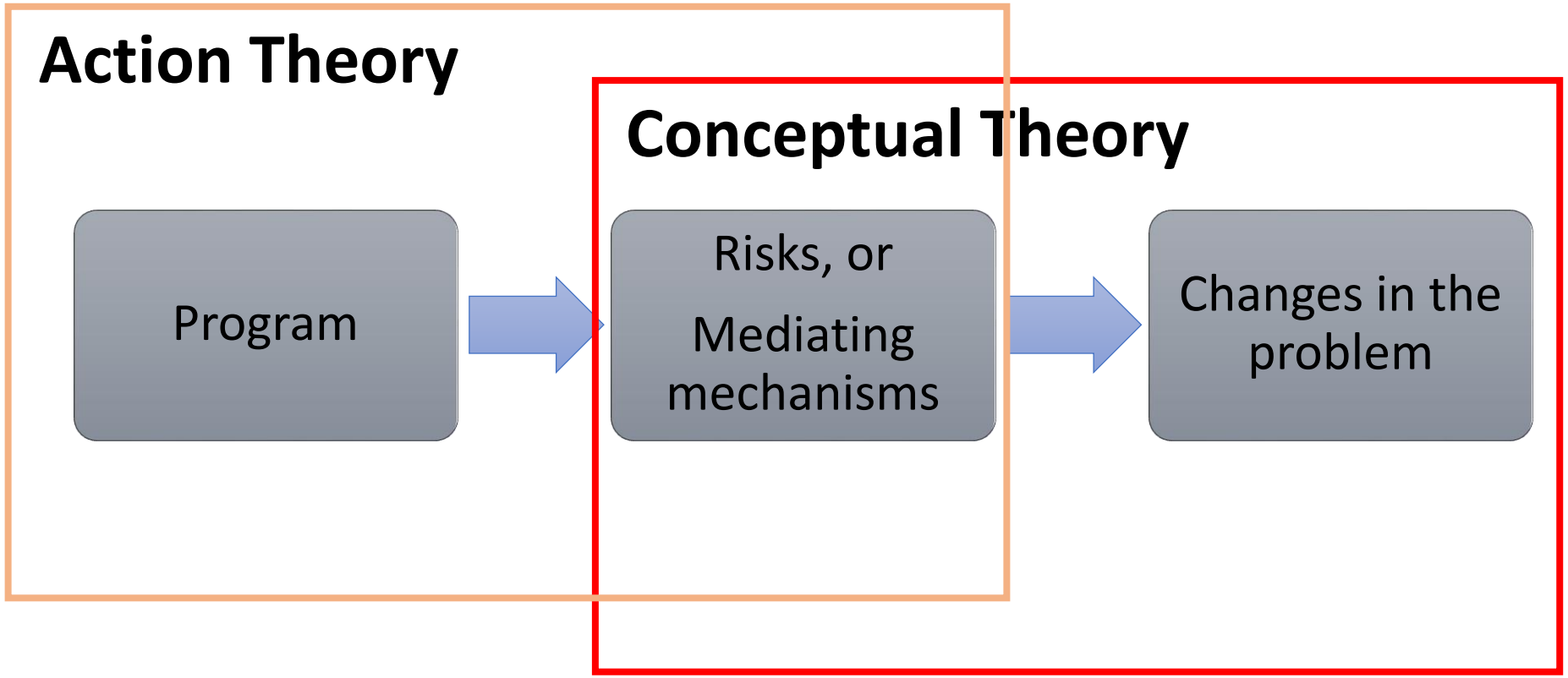
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Program Theory

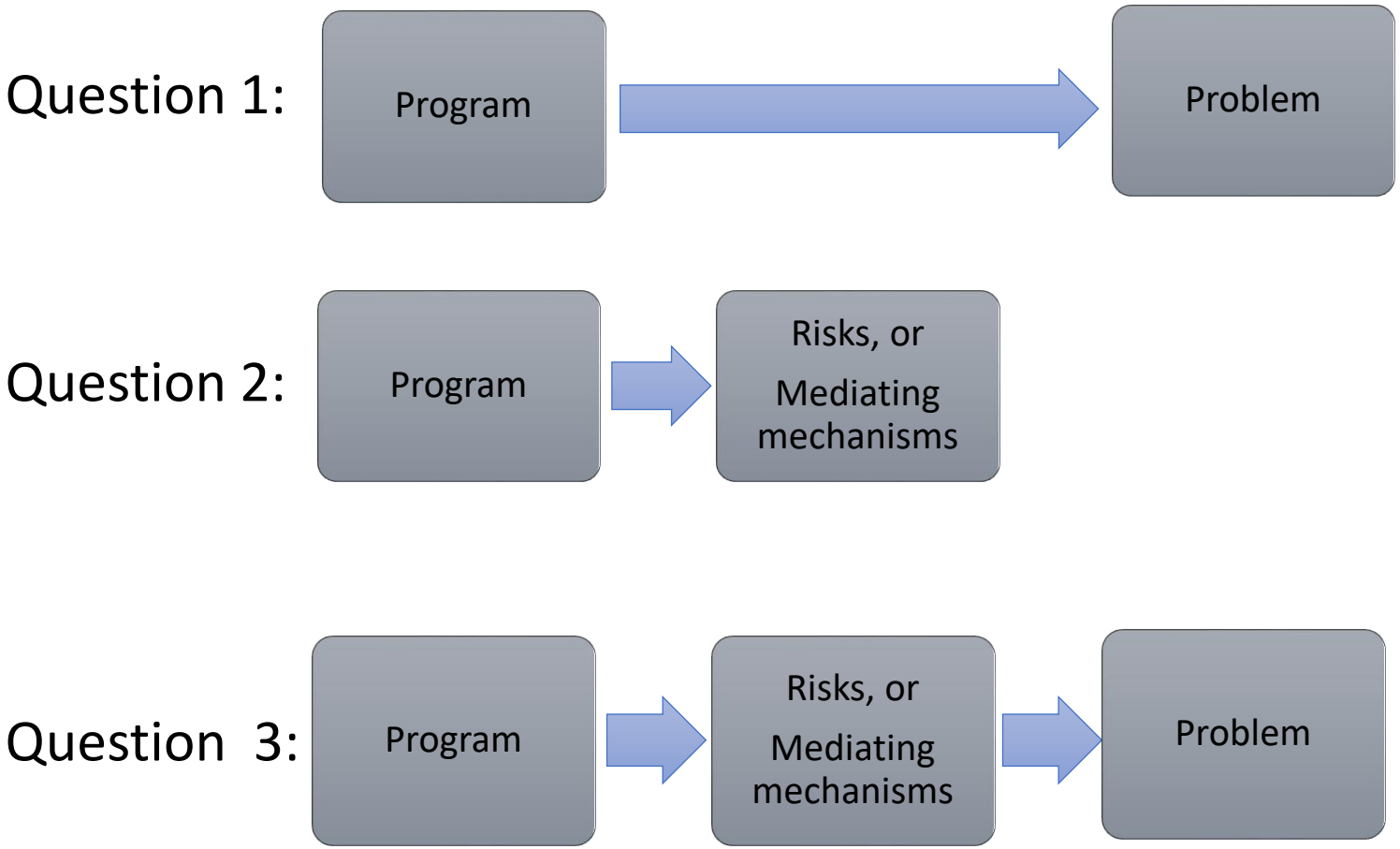


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Program Theory



A typical evaluation study



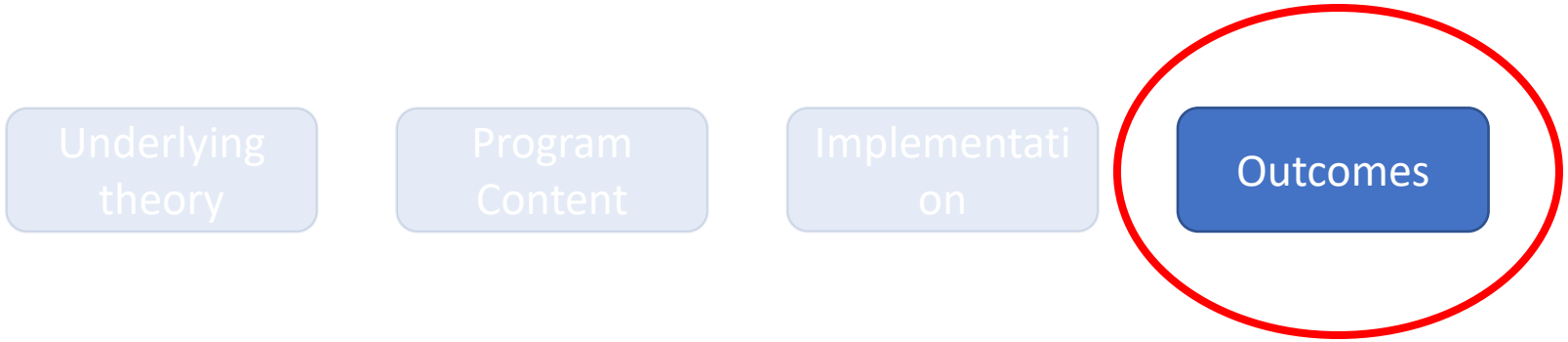
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What we talk about when we talk about evidence-based?

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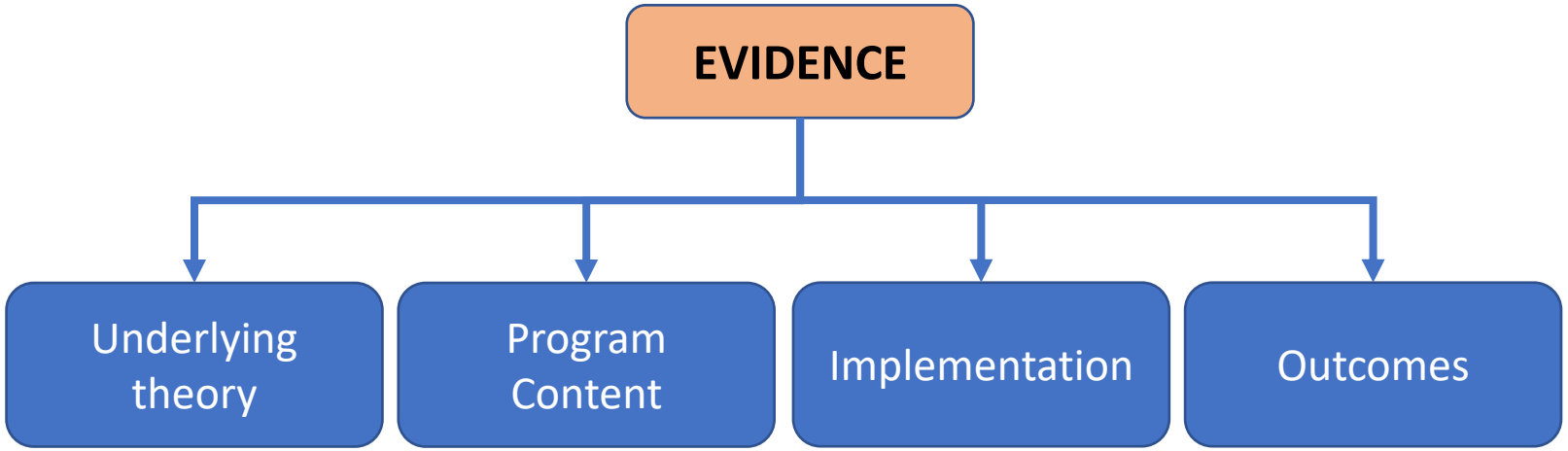
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EVIDENCE-BASED?



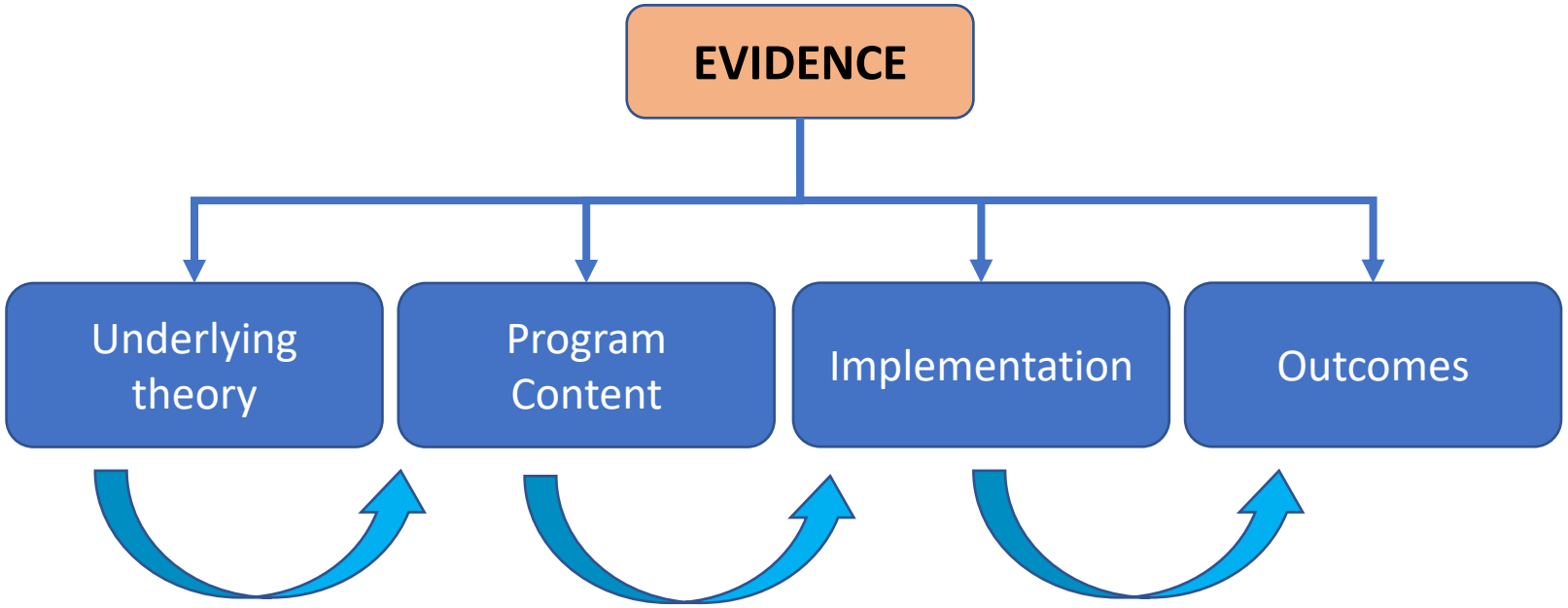
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EVIDENCE-BASED PROGRAMS



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EVIDENCE-BASED PROGRAMS



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EVIDENCE-BASED PROGRAMS

- What kind of pain?
- Age?
- Other health complications?
- Allergies to the active substance?
- Any other mediation?
- How many pills?
- How often?
- Before or after a meal?
- Swallow, chew, dissolve in water?

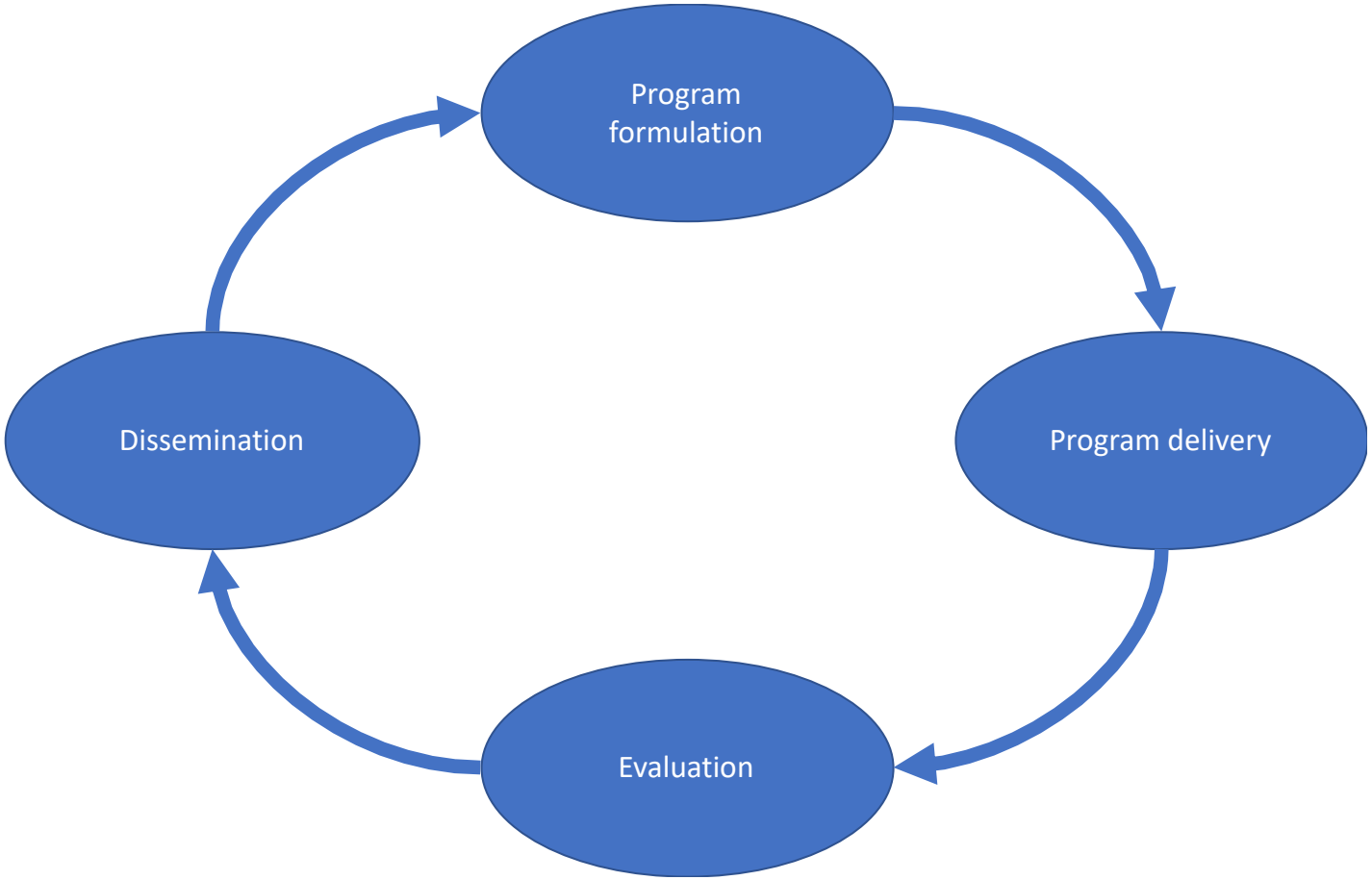


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Implementation of Parent Support Programs

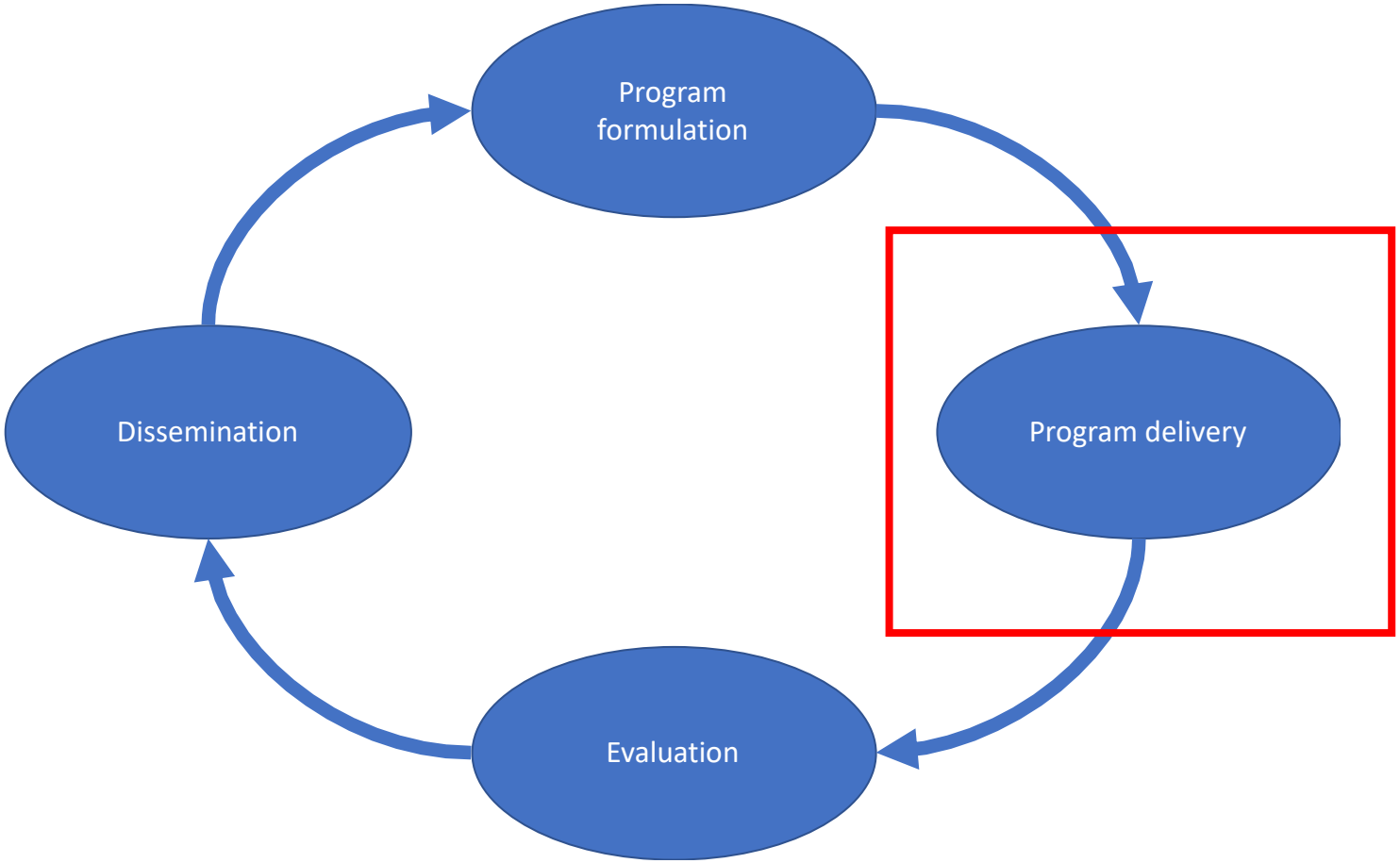
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Components of the quality standards for the family support programs.

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Components of the quality standards for the family support programs.

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Implementation questions

- Does the program meet the needs of families and communities?
- How to secure buy-in from key stakeholders?
- What training and supervision are needed for the implementation workforce?
- How can parenting programs be integrated in existing infrastructure?
- What aspects are critical to successful implementation?

- What works for whom and under what circumstances?

A narrow definition

- How well a program or intervention is put into practice?
  - Adherence
  - Fidelity
  - Integrity

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Table 1 Dimensions of implementation

Dimension	Definition	Other labels
Differentiation	Distinctiveness of a program's theory and practices from other available programs	Program uniqueness
Dosage	Number of program sessions delivered	Quantity
		Intervention strength
Reach	Extent to which participants being served by the program are representative of the target population	Participation rates
		Program scope
Monitoring[a]	Documenting what services members of intervention and control groups receive beyond the program being evaluated	Treatment contamination
		Usual care
		Alternative services
Fidelity	Whether prescribed program components were delivered as instructed in program protocol	Adherence
		Compliance
		Integrity
		Faithful replication
		Completeness
Quality	Teaching and clinical skill with which the program is implemented	Competence
Adaptation	Additions made to the program during implementation	Modification
		Reinvention
Responsiveness	Involvement and interest in the program	Engagement
		Attendance
		Retention
		Satisfaction
		Home practice completion
		Dosage

Berkel, Mauricio, Schoenfelder, & Sandler (2011)

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MISSING: Preparation of implementation team

Berkel, Mauricio, Schoenfelder, & Sandler (2011)

What is quality implementation?

Variations are unavoidable

- Implementation is not all-or-none phenomenon
- There are always variations in implementation quality within an intervention group, across intervention groups, and across different sites where the intervention is implemented

What kind of variations may not impact quality of implementation?

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What kind of variations may not impact quality of implementation?

Key to quality implementation

How well the active ingredients of a program is delivered?

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Poor implementation quality

- Without quality implementation
  - We cannot confidently determine the link between program exposure and outcomes – internal validity
  - We cannot expect to replicate the program effects in other settings – external validity
  - We cannot determine how or why a program works – construct validity
  - Variability in implementation may result in biased estimates of program outcome – statistical conclusion validity

Implementation data is critical for interpretation of the positive and negative results

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How could be the implementation quality of the following programs?

	Effect	Effect	Effect	Effect	Effect
Child only	Yes	No	No	No	No
Parent only	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No
Child + Parent	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No

Implementation quality

- We cannot attribute negative effects to program unless we know whether the program was conducted well
  - Some potentially effective programs could be found ineffective due to poor implementation
  - Nonsignificant findings may occur when a program is poorly implemented

How to study implementation?

Step 1: Define active program ingredients

Step 2: Use good methods to measure implementation

Step 3: Monitor implementation

Step 4: Relate implementation to outcome

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Recommendations for implementation assessment

- Assess implementation for pilot studies, efficacy and effectiveness trials
- Use methodologies that best suit for the purpose
  - Interviews
  - Surveys
  - Observations
  - Self and independent ratings
- Keep feasibility in mind – focus on the key aspects that is feasible to assess not to waste resources and loose focus

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Recommendations for implementation assessment

- Aim for high quality assessment tools
  - Pay extra attention to whether existing tools meet the purpose of your study

- Independent raters and multiple methods
  - Self-ratings are often positively biased

- Assess both quantity and quality of program implementation

Recommendations for implementation assessment

- Monitor implementation by continuous assessment

- Use monitoring strategies to prevent program drift Program drift – significant departure from fidelity over time
  - Some studies found 41 to 84% of the teachers may modify or discontinue using the program consistent with the manual/instructions

- Take variability across assessments and time seriously
  - Aggregated scores from multiple sources may hide the impact of variability in implementation quality on outcomes

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Key points

- Parenting support research made significant progress over the last several decades
  - But, there is need for further advancements guided by clear goals, principles, and standards

- Clearly defined goals and standards for the field of research and practice should guide our work

- Well structured assessment of implementation process could be used to develop feedback loops which may further enhance the quality

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