**PAPER NUMBER #109**

**Bringing Evidence on What Works to UK Policy: Experiences from the Early Intervention Foundation**

**Presenting Author**

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**Objectives/aims**

The EIF is a UK Government What Works Centre with a mission to ensure effective early intervention is available to children and young people at risk of poor outcomes. We do this by generating, disseminating and securing the adoption of evidence on what works to improve children’s outcomes. Key areas of research include, early years, mental health, interparental relationships and vulnerability. I will present on our key outputs, including our guidebook of over 80 evidence based programmes, and reflect on our work to influence the design and delivery of policy at a national and local level.

**Methods**

The focus is sharing general experiences across the themes of improving policy and practice and understanding what works rather than on specific methods. I will cover key findigs from work which has used a wide range of evidence synthesis and empirical research techniques and discuss the challenges of disseminating that work to policy makers and practitioners.

**Main findings**

I will explore the challenges of producing high-quality empirical evidence on what works to improve outcomes for children, highlighting some of our key findings and also the major gaps in the evidence base. I will reflect on our successes in influencing the design and delivery of children’s services and the challenges in getting central and local government to engage with complex and nuanced evidence and what next for EIF.