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## Guidelines for submissions to the What Works Database

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This guideline document supports the 'Criteria for Submissions' form which must be completed and submitted in order for interventions to be considered by the *What Works* Moderating Group for inclusion onto the database. It may also be used as guidance by organisations or practitioners to help them to evidence interventions robustly. Submitted interventions are considered against three levels of evidence: Indicative, Moderate and Strong. Essential aspects of interventions are outlined below followed by criteria for interventions to meet Indicative, Moderate and Strong evidence categories.

### Essential aspects for submission of interventions

If you are submitting an intervention, you will need to ensure that you can complete the following points listed under each research category below:

#### Validity and Delivery

- Explain the rationale for the intervention.
- Clearly describe all steps in the intervention so that they are easy to follow. A service or practitioner must be able to replicate and deliver the intervention without adaptation based on information presented in supporting evidence papers.
- Provide information about the target client group, the staff required to deliver the intervention and the setting where the intervention should take place.
- Clearly state whether formal training for intervention delivery is necessary.
- Clearly state whether intervention materials are freely accessible for use.

*Whilst not essential, we welcome the inclusion of any cost feasibility information, to help service and settings recognise resource implications.*

#### Evidence and Design

- Indicate what level of evidence (Indicative, Moderate or Strong) you believe your intervention has, explaining your reasoning behind this.
- Ensure that the intervention submitted is for children and young people (age range 0-25 years) and that it addresses speech, language and/or communication.
- Report upon how the intervention has been formally evaluated.
- Comment on treatment fidelity (the capacity of those who use the programme to stick to what is expected in the manual), with an explanation of what makes it easy/difficult to stick to the programme as originally intended.
- Ensure that evidence is the outcome of suitably designed research methodology and relates to the exact intervention that is being submitted. Relative experimental control for each evidence category, Indicative, Moderate and Strong, is outlined below.
- Clearly state how children were allocated to intervention or control groups.
- Explain any attrition in the sample (the rate of drop out of participants/subjects).
- Ensure that measurement techniques are shown to be reliable and valid.

#### Publication

- Ensure that the evidence is published in the public domain (we cannot include PhD and/or Masters theses).
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### Building on and assessing your evidence base

Applicable to all levels of evidence, outcomes must have been analysed using appropriate statistics. Purely descriptive studies will not be accepted as evidence.

#### Criteria for an '**Indicative**' intervention

For evidence to be graded as **Indicative** it must meet a minimum of two criteria: one for design **and** one for measurement.

Design criteria include:

- Reporting on a case series with a multiple baseline design
- OR
- A matched control group for a group comparison.

Measurement criteria include:

- Reporting on control and targeted items in a before and after design
- AND/OR
- Including recently standardised assessments in a before and after design.

#### Criteria for a '**Moderate**' intervention

Evidence will be graded as **Moderate** if it meets one of the following criteria:

- Single randomised controlled trial (must include appropriate measurement and design)
- OR
- Quasi-experimental study.

#### Criteria for a '**Strong**' intervention

Evidence will be graded as **Strong** if it includes the following:

- At least one robust systematic review (papers in this review must include appropriate measurement and design)
- AND
- Reports subsequent trials as available (also includes appropriate measurement and design).
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