

Core criteria

1. Parent pregnant and/or with child up to age 2.
2. Where there is evidence of a dysfunction/disruption to the relationship/attunement of parent and infant.
3. Where there is evidence that the parents want to engage with therapeutic work. And that they have the capacity to change.

Issues may include:

Antenatal

- Former miscarriage and currently pregnant
- IVF/ Infertility treatment
- Previous traumatic birth experiences
- No space for baby in parent's mind
- Pregnancy seems unreal – baby not thought about or experienced as real person

Parental history and present circumstances

- PND
- Depression - in current or previous generations
- Chronic maternal anxiety
- Death of previous child
- Death or illness in the family
- Death or illness in previous generations
- Isolation
- Lack of support
- Recent life stress (bereavement, job loss, immigration)
- Domestic abuse
- Trauma

Interactional/relationship issues

- Difficulties bonding with the baby
- Negative attributions made towards a child, even if 'jokey'
- Lack of conversation/vocalisation with the baby
- Lack of eye contact Lack of sensitivity to infant's cries or signals
- No encouragement of child's development
- Physically rough with the baby

Vulnerability in Baby

- Failure to thrive
- Feeding difficulties and/or constipation
- Severe sleep problems
- Extreme crying/very difficult to manage
- Prematurity
- Passive/nonresponsive or excessively compliant baby
- Developmental delay
- Lack of vocalisation by the baby