

# Adverse childhood experiences and protective factors in Children with intellectual disabilities: assessment and prevention

**INTRODUCTION**

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) include a wide range of negative experiences occurring in a child's family or social environment. Experiences of childhood adversity are found to be relatively common for children all over the world, but children with intellectual disabilities are at increased risk. ACEs can have profound lifelong effects on mental and physical health, unless mitigated by protective factors within the family or the community, or through specific interventions. Whilst research shows that screening for ACEs strongly contributes to mitigating the negative effects of ACEs, preventing ACEs and promoting resilience and social and emotional well-being in children, there is a lack of focus on ACEs in children with ID in research and clinical practice .

**OBJECTIVE**

To develop a Dutch screener to identify threats and protective factors regarding ACEs in children with ID. This screener will also focus on ACEs in family members, to address intergenerational problem-transmission. ACEs assessment is a first step in the diagnosis and treatment of ACE related child and family problems and will provide vital information to guide the development of tailored interventions in clinical practice. Because of the relation between ACEs and psychopathology in children with ID, an additional screening tool for assessing psychopathology in children with ID will be developed.

**PARTNERSHIP**

Three systematic reviews will be completed focusing on (1) ACEs in children with ID, (2) the consequences of the accumulation of ACEs and (3) the influences of protective mechanisms on ACE development. Clients and their families will be involved as information provider, advisor and evaluator, as will be Dutch professionals and international experts.

