

Background.

The third trimester of foetal development is a time of rapid brain growth therefore; preterm infants do not benefit from these critical periods of brain development. Evidence has demonstrated that making adaptations and modifications to their environment, and in the way nursing care is delivered, can support brain development and reduce morbidity in premature infants.

Aim.

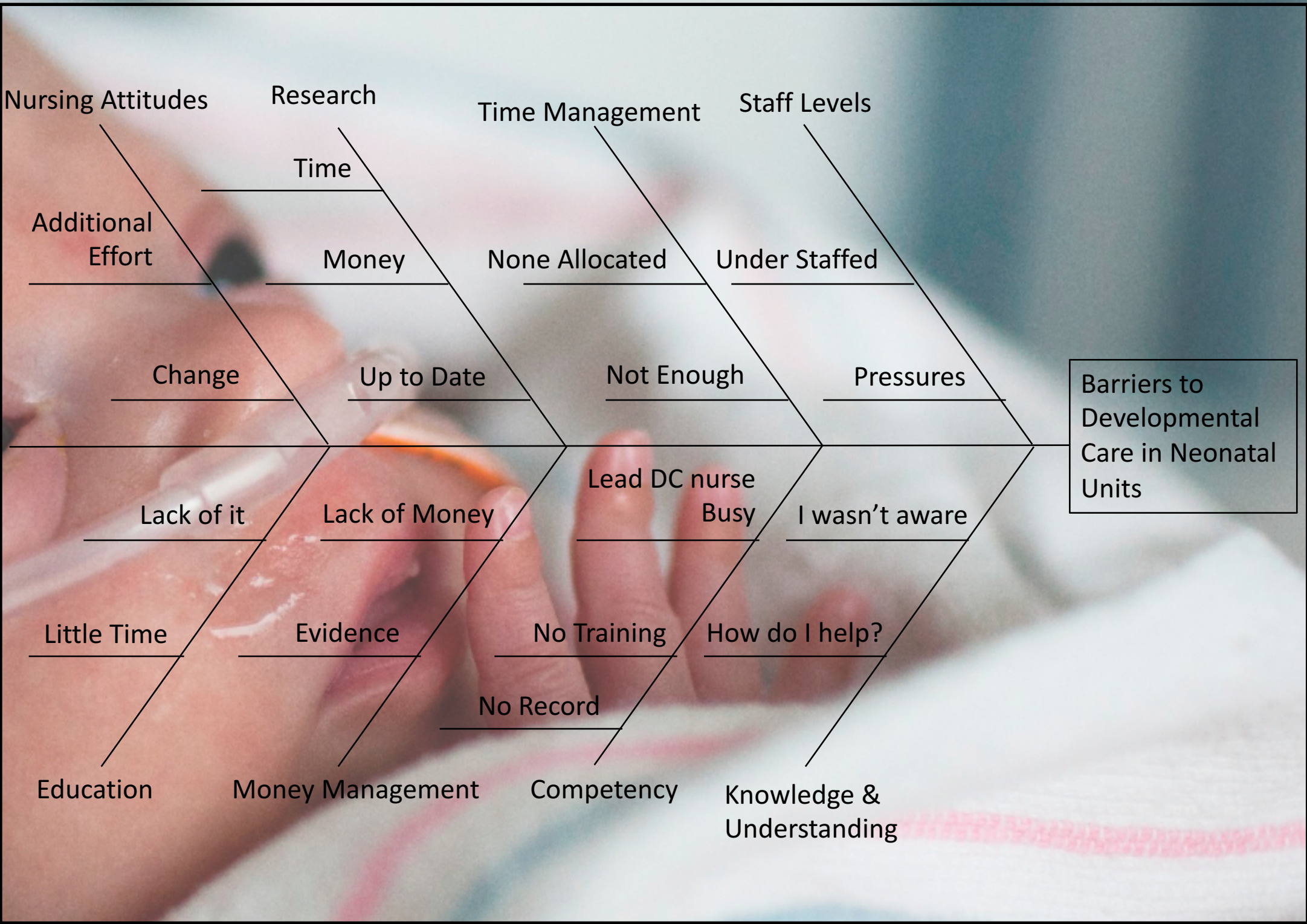
The aim is to produce a Developmental Care Education Programme as part of Mandatory training for all new and existing staff.

Methods.

Stage 1: Gantt Chart – for clear timescales and allocated tasks.

Activity	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October
Planning, reading and research of evidence base.								
Collect data from questionnaires.								
Write plan, background, context and aims.								
Planning meeting with Developmental care lead.								
Amend plan in response to meeting with Developmental care lead.								
Review amended plan with Developmental care lead and ward staff.								
Finalize plan.								
Produce poster to inform staff of initiative.								
Present idea to ward members.								
First trial of study day to obtain feedback.								
Focus group with all involved								
Amend and queries from feedback.								
Second trial of study day to different group of staff.								
Gather more feedback. Second focus group.								
Publish results, internally and externally as appropriate.								
Celebrate success with staff and trust members.								

Stage 2: Fishbone diagram - to help identify the barriers.



Stage 3: Data collection and regular meetings - to keep all involved, up to date with progress.

Results.

Feedback from the questionnaires:

- There is not enough training on developmental care and people would like more.
- Staff were unsure of their contribution to the basics of developmental care.
- Most people asked would benefit from practical training and study days.

Recommendations:

- Gaps can be met with the use of a programme that includes both theory and simulation.