

## **PIIOS (Parent Infant Interaction Observational Scale) in a Swedish setting**

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**Introduction:** Research shows that the early interaction between parent and child is of great importance for the child's future attachment, relationships and health. In all services that work with infants, it is crucial that professionals have the competence to assess the interaction between parents and children as well as the parents' emotional responsiveness. This is a difficult task for most professionals and there is a clear need for a structured assessment in the area.

**Aims and purpose:** The Parent-Infant Interaction Observation Scale was developed by Dr. PO Svanberg in association with Warwick Infant Family Wellbeing Unit, University of Warwick, to meet the need for a short and easily accessible screening instrument for early identification of children and parents in need of support. The assessment contains of 13 areas from which the filmed interaction between infants (2 - 7 months old) and guardian is assessed. Today, PIIOS is part of the continuing education for professionals working with infants in the UK. In Västra Götaland, Sweden, the instrument has been used in an Infant Mental Health Service since 2019. During the winter of 2021–2022, a first cohort of training adapted to Swedish conditions in collaboration with Warwick University took place.

**Description:** The PIIOS training has now been adapted to Swedish conditions and initial results from the first cohort show positive results. All professionals (pediatricians, child health nurses, social workers, and psychologists) support how the method can contribute to develop clinicians' assessments by using a structured tool in their work with early interaction between infants and guardians.

**Conclusion:** PIIOS is a short and easily accessible screening instrument for the interaction between infants and guardians, and the training is now adapted to Swedish conditions. There is a clear need for a structured assessment among clinicians in Sweden and the training will continue.