Marshall, Joyce, Renfrew, Mary J. and Godfrey, Mary

Understanding the use of research evidence in practice: the support given to breastfeeding women by community midwives and health visitors

Original Citation


This version is available at http://eprints.hud.ac.uk/8223/

The University Repository is a digital collection of the research output of the University, available on Open Access. Copyright and Moral Rights for the items on this site are retained by the individual author and/or other copyright owners. Users may access full items free of charge; copies of full text items generally can be reproduced, displayed or performed and given to third parties in any format or medium for personal research or study, educational or not-for-profit purposes without prior permission or charge, provided:

- The authors, title and full bibliographic details is credited in any copy;
- A hyperlink and/or URL is included for the original metadata page; and
- The content is not changed in any way.

For more information, including our policy and submission procedure, please contact the Repository Team at: E.mailbox@hud.ac.uk.

http://eprints.hud.ac.uk/
Understanding the use of research evidence in practice: the support given to breastfeeding women by community midwives and health visitors

Introduction
This study explores how knowledge from research is perceived and used in relation to other kinds of knowledge in practice. This is explored from the perspectives of clients, midwives and health visitors within the context of breastfeeding help and support.

Methods
Observation of interactions between either community midwives or health visitors and breastfeeding women and in-depth, semi-structured interviews with both health professionals and women were conducted.

A detailed analysis of both field notes and interviews was carried out. Domain analysis was used initially to gain an overview of the concepts and to produce a framework for analysis and coding was carried out using NVivo software. Diagrams were used to map out categories within concepts, to see linkages between them and to adjust coding.

Findings
The knowledge and experiences of both women and health professionals will be presented. For women these experiences included building up confidence to care for a new baby and learning to deal with uncertainty. Breastfeeding was seen in the context of motherhood and included ideas about being a ‘good mother’.

Health professionals valued the kind of knowledge that came from remembering women’s experiences. Knowledge from research was used in conjunction with other kinds of knowledge but was never accepted unconditionally. Health professionals attempted to offer women information in a way that they felt would make the information more acceptable and easier for them to understand.