

Allergy & Infection

UPDATE



The ALL IN team

Come and join us!

It's just over a year since the Allergy and Infection study started and we are delighted that so many parents have chosen to take part.

The study aims to find out if some common viral infections that children catch when they are very young affect the way their body copes with diseases in the future.

We are especially interested to see if these infections play a part in the development of diseases such as asthma, hay fever and eczema which now affect so many children.

So far around 500 families have taken part in the study but with a target of 4,500 families we still have a long way to go!

Read on to find out more...



How do I get involved with ALL IN?

Each month the team gets a list of the Born in Bradford babies who have just turned one. We send parents an information sheet to explain the aim of the study and telephone them to find out if they are interested in taking part. It's always great news when families say yes and we can then arrange a home visit or clinic appointment.

What happens at the visit?

The visit consists of completing a questionnaire with the parents, usually Mum. We also take a small blood sample, as this is the only way we can tell if children have had any of the infections

we are studying. Some parents are worried by this, but our experience has been that most children are not bothered by the needle and don't feel any pain. We use a very effective local



Jo Stott, Community Research Co-ordinator

anaesthetic, the study administrators are highly trained and experienced in taking blood from children and it is very quickly done.

We are just starting to do repeat visits when the children are two years old where we complete another questionnaire and take another blood sample. Until the findings are analysed at the end of the study we don't have any answers but as soon as we do we will share them with everybody.



Atopy pilot study (skin test)

We have recently begun a pilot study in schools in which we want to test 250 children in Reception classes to find out how common allergies are across Bradford. When we visit the school we do a very simple skin test on each child who has permission to take part. This involves putting several drops of clear liquid on the inside of the child's arm with the substances that we are testing for, such as dog and cat hair and grass. We put a piece of tape next to the drops to mark each drop and then gently prick the skin using a small lancet (see photo, right).

Some parents are worried that it will upset or hurt their child but we have found that the children generally enjoy the experience! We have to wait for 15 minutes after putting the substances on before taking the results and during that time we read books, chat or do some colouring all of which the children really like.

We write the results of the test on a letter to parents and if there has been a positive reaction enclose an information sheet about allergies.



We are really grateful to the following schools for agreeing to let us ask their Reception class parents to be involved;

Cottingley
Knowleswood
Parkland
Sandy Lane
Princeville
Hollingwood
Horton Park
Springwood
Farnham

We will be visiting more schools soon. If you are interested in your child taking part please ask the Head teacher at your child's school about it or ring us to tell us you are interested.



There's a lot to love about this job

I've been working with BiB for a year now and what I really love about my job is the opportunity to see the children in their own houses, especially after working at St Luke's for many years, it's great to meet the same families more than once. It's good to travel

all over Bradford and I enjoy seeing the different parts of the city.

I am really proud to be involved in such a worthwhile study where so many children with asthma and eczema will benefit from the findings in the future.

Contact point

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