Bureau Name: Children's Bureau  
Grant Number: 90CA1720  
Target Population: Abused or neglected children and their families  

GRANT INFORMATION:  
Name of Grantee: Northern Illinois University  
Fiscal Year: 2003  
Amount of Award: $80,000.00  
Program Name: Child Abuse and Neglect Discretionary Activities  
Project Period: 09/30/2003-09/29/2005  
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ABSTRACT:  
The Child Physical Abuse (CPA) Research Fellowships: A Program of Research Examining Automatic Information Processes in High-Risk Parents at Northern Illinois University are based on recent theory suggesting that automatic processes that occur without intention outside the parents’ awareness may underlie cycles of negative thoughts and feelings that develop during physically abusive parenting situations. Little consideration is currently given to automatic processes in existing CPA prevention programs. Thus, parents may successfully master knowledge and skills taught, only to find that their behaviors are guided automatically by habitual information processing patterns during difficult moments in parenting. This research is examining how automatic information processing may vary as a function of CPA risk. In the first study, a cued recall paradigm examines whether high-, compared to low-, risk parents are more likely to automatically encode child behaviors as hostile. In the second and third studies, priming techniques are used to examine whether increased accessibility of aggression-related information structures impacts interpretations and response selection in high-risk parents. Findings may help clarify the role of automatic processing in CPA risk and underscore the need to attend to automatic processes in interventions that seek to reduce CPA risk.  

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( To revise this search, go back to Steps 1-2, 3, 4, 5)