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A framework of acceptability for parents and children includes the importance of relationships, individualization and outcomes

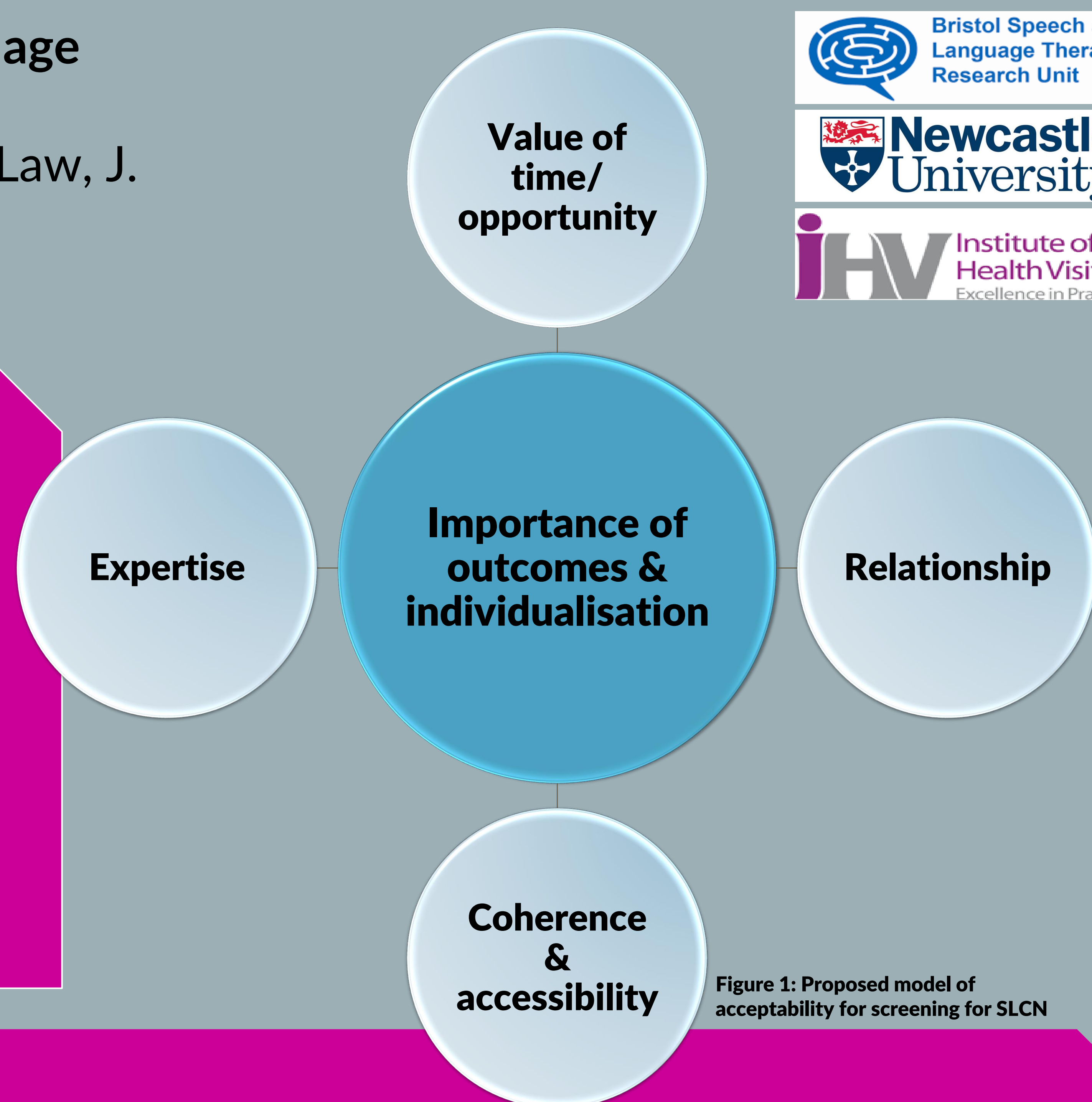


Figure 1: Proposed model of acceptability for screening for SLCN

Background

- Parents of children with speech, language and communication needs (SLCN) report negative experiences of screening¹
- Acceptability in healthcare is often measured through patient behaviours, for example compliance or attendance²
- Sekhon et al. argue that this does not capture the complexity of acceptability and propose a broader Theoretical Framework of Acceptability (TFA)³
- **Aim:** to explore how far the TFA captures the acceptability for parents of preschool screening for SLCN

Method

- Following a developmental review with their 2-year-old children:
 - **433** parents completed a survey
 - **40** parents took part in a follow-up qualitative interview
- Results were mapped to the TFA themes
- Interviews were also analysed inductively to identify additional themes

Results

1. Evidence of TFA themes

<p>Affective Attitude Overall feelings about screening review</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Survey: 94% satisfied/very satisfied with the review ● Interviews: Qualitative responses tied in with other elements 	<p>Burden/Opportunity Costs Time invested/opportunities given up</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Survey: 98% said the timing worked for them ● Interviews: "It was quite a bit quick, a bit rushed" 	<p>Ethicality How screening fits with values</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Survey: 99% very/quite comfortable with questions ● Interviews: "I was comfy, because obviously she knew our background"
<p>Intervention Coherence Understanding of screening process</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Survey: 98% said questions made sense ● Interviews: "There was only a couple but she, she explained what it meant" 	<p>Perceived Effectiveness Overall success of screening</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Survey: 92% satisfied/very satisfied with assessment for SLCN ● Interviews: "[they] just told me to wait and see...which I wasn't really happy about" 	<p>Self-Efficacy Parent's confidence in own abilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Survey: 99% very/quite confident in own ability to answer questions ● Interviews: "They make you think as a parent actually about your own child"

2. Additional themes

- > **Individualisation** - "she made it about us"
- > **Relationship** - "if there was ever a worry or anything, they're a phone call away"
- > **Outcome of the review** - "I was not very worried why they are not referring, because they are giving me the tools"

Conclusion

- Evidence of all TFA domains was identified in the data
- However, parents placed greater emphasis on additional themes identified, such as trust in the practitioner, in line with previous paediatric acceptability studies^{4,5}
- A new model (Figure 1) is proposed that could be used to shape future investigations of the acceptability of screening for SLCN

References

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