# Making Sense of Systematic Reviewing for Social Work in the Field of Child Abuse & Neglect

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# Growing Demand for EB SW

- Research-knowledge for SW
- Accountability for SW practice

=> Systematic reviews to find the best evidence



## The Nature of Social Work

- Incongruities
- The question of causality
- Complexity within complex contexts



## The Body of Evidence for SW

- Quantitative & qualitative evidence
- Heterogeneity

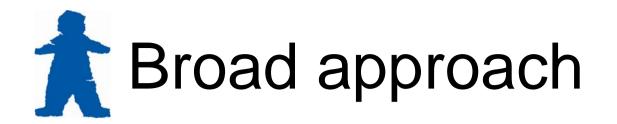


### Risk Assessment

- Available evidence is limited
- Possible research designs are limited



- The nature of social work
- The body of evidence for social work
- The nature of risk assessment
- The context of Confidential Centres



- Importance of context
- Large scale of sources of evidence
- Systematic and rigorous method
- Narrative synthesis
- Iterativity



### Practice Reference Group

- Practitioners
- Focusgroup
- Defining the review topic
  - ⇒A practice theory about the intervention
- Discussing the preliminary findings
  - ⇒Utility test of the synthesis
- Guide for dissemination & reporting



- Loss of depth
- Loss of generalizability
- Quality assessment



- Challenges
- Solutions
- Limitations

Rigour



#### C. Baird:

'To insist that no research is legitimate because the imperfections of data is to trap a field in its status quo.'



• Questions?



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