**S** 1 Eligibility criteria for the study selection procedure.

	Inclusion criteria	Exclusion criteria
Population	• subjects are children or adolescents	• adult samples (>18 years)
	≤18 years before treatment initiation	• clinically depressed samples (≥50% of
	(if age range is not available, then use	participants currently meet or formerly
	mean age: ≤18.0 years)	met criteria for clinical diagnosis of
	• clinical or community samples as well	depression before treatment initiation)
	as samples drawn from the general	
	population	
	• participants with or without increased	
	risk for depression	
	• participants with or without	
	subthreshold depression	
Intervention	• interventions aiming at preventing the	• interventions aiming at treating
	onset of depression or reducing	depression or preventing its
	depressive symptoms (universal,	reoccurrence (secondary or tertiary
	selective, and indicated prevention)	prevention)
	• social, psychological, or educational	• interventions only targeting caregiver
	interventions targeting children and	including any pharmacological and
	adolescents	hormonal components or solely
		relying on music-based or physical
		activity components
Control	• treatment as usual	no control group
	• wait-list control	drug placebo
	attention placebo control	
	control arm with no treatment	

## **S** 1 Continued.

		Inclusion criteria		Exclusion criteria
Outcome	•	outcome assessment before and after	•	bipolar depression, no depression, or
		treatment initiation		depression only as secondary outcome
	•	meeting diagnostic criteria for unipolar	•	only cost-effectiveness, process
		depressive disorder by administering		evaluation, surrogate outcome
		fully structured or semi-structured		measures or multifactorial outcome
		diagnostic interviews or applying cut-		index scores
		off values on self- or proxy-report		
		screening scales		
	•	depressive symptom severity by		
		administering fully structured or semi-		
		structured diagnostic interviews or		
		applying self- or proxy-report		
		screening scales		
Study design	•	randomised controlled trials	•	meta-analysis
	•	cluster randomised controlled trials	•	systematic reviews
			•	narrative reviews/ overview articles
			•	observational studies
			•	qualitative studies
			•	non-controlled trials
			•	non-randomised trials
			•	quasi-randomised trials
			•	cross-over randomised controlled
				trials

# \$ 2 Electronic search strategy for MEDLINE via PubMed.

Component	ID	Search term
Search filter for the "children"	#1	child*[tiab]
component [1]	#2	adolescent[tiab]
	#3	infan*[tiab]
	#4	#1 OR #2 OR #3
MeSH terms for "prevention" component	#5	"Mental Health Services"[mesh:noexp] AND Prevention and Control[sh:noexp]
	#6	"Preventive Health Services"[mesh:noexp] AND Prevention and Control[sh:noexp]
	#7	"Child Health Services"[mesh:noexp] AND Prevention and Control[sh:noexp]
	#8	"Adolescent Health Services"[mesh:noexp] AND Prevention and Control[sh:noexp]
	#9	"Community Mental Health Services"[mesh:noexp] AND Prevention and Control[sh:noexp]
	#10	"Preventive Medicine"[mesh:noexp] AND Prevention and Control[sh:noexp]
	#11	"Early Intervention (Education)"[mesh:noexp] AND Prevention and Control[sh:noexp]
	#12	"Health Education"[mesh:noexp] AND Prevention and Control[sh:noexp]
	#13	"Health Promotion"[mesh:noexp] AND Prevention and Control[sh:noexp]
	#14	"Family Therapy"[mesh:noexp] AND Prevention and Control[sh:noexp]
	#15	"Psychotherapy, Group"[mesh:noexp] AND Prevention and Control[sh:noexp]
	#16	"School Health Services"[mesh:noexp] AND Prevention and Control[sh:noexp]
	#17	#5 OR #6 OR #7 OR #8 OR #9 OR #10 OR #11 OR #12 OR #13 OR #14 OR #15 OR #16

## S 2 Continued.

Component	ID	Search term
Keywords for "prevention"	#18	primary[tiab]
component	#19	targeted[tiab]
	#20	universal[tiab]
	#21	selective[tiab]
	#22	selected[tiab]
	#23	indicated[tiab]
	#24	psycho*[tiab]
	#25	educat*[tiab]
	#26	social[tiab]
	#27	#18 OR #19 OR #20 OR #21 OR #22 OR #23 OR #24 OR #25 OR #26
	#28	prevent*[tiab]
	#29	intervention*[tiab]
	#30	program*[tiab]
	#31	promot*[tiab]
	#32	#28 OR #29 OR #30 OR # 31
	#33	#27 AND #32
Keywords and MeSH terms for "prevention" component	#34	#17 OR #33
MesH terms for "depression" component	#35	"Depression"[mesh:noexp] AND (Epidemiology[sh:noexp] OR Psychology[sh:noexp])
	#36	"Depressive Disorder"[mesh:noexp] AND (Epidemiology[sh:noexp] OR Psychology[sh:noexp])
	#37	"Depressive Disorder, Major"[mesh:noexp] AND (Epidemiology[sh:noexp] OR Psychology[sh:noexp])
	#38	"Dysthymic Disorder"[mesh:noexp] AND (Epidemiology[sh:noexp] OR Psychology[sh:noexp])
	#39	"Depression, Postpartum"[mesh:noexp] AND (Epidemiology[sh:noexp]) OR Psychology[sh:noexp])
	#40	#35 OR #36 OR #37 OR #38 OR #39
Keyword for "depression" component	#41	depress*[tiab]
MeSH terms and keywords for "depression" component	#42	#40 OR #41

## S 2 Continued.

Component	ID	Search term
MeSH terms for "study design" component	#43	"Controlled Clinical Trials as Topic"[mesh:noexp] AND (Methods[sh:noexp] OR Epidemiology[sh:noexp])
	#44	exp "Randomized Controlled Trial"[Publication Type]
	#45	#43 OR #44
Keywords for "study design"	#46	random*[tiab]
component	#47	trial[tiab]
	#48	#46 OR #47
MeSH terms and keywords for "study design" component	#49	#45 OR #48
Exclude animal-related research	#50	exp "Animals"[mesh]
	#51	exp "Humans"[mesh]
	#52	#50 NOT #51
	#53	#49 NOT #52
Exclude reviews, meta-analyses and	#54	Review [Publication Type]
research protocols	#55	"Review Literature as Topic"[mesh:noexp]
	#56	#54 OR #55
		meta analysis[ti]
		review[ti]
		protocol[ti]
		#57 OR #58 OR #59
		#56 OR #60
		#53 NOT #61
Components: "child" + "prevention"	#63	#4 AND #34
Components: "child" + "prevention" + "depression"	#64	#63 AND #42
Components: "child" + "prevention" + "depression" + "study design"	#65	#64 AND #62
Restrict to records published between 2003 and 2019	#66	#65 AND 2003:2019[dp]

S3 Hand-searched journals and systematic reviews as additional sources of information.

#### Journals hand-searched for eligible primary studies

Journal of the American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry

Journal of Abnormal Child Psychology

Journal of Paediatric Psychology

Behaviour Research and Therapy

#### Systematic reviews for which the reference lists were searched for eligible primary studies

- Ahlen, J., Lenhard, F., & Ghaderi, A. (2015). Universal prevention for anxiety and depressive symptoms in children: a meta-analysis of randomized and cluster-randomized trials. The journal of primary prevention, 36(6), 387-403.
- Barry, M. M., Clarke, A. M., Jenkins, R., & Patel, V. (2013). A systematic review of the effectiveness of mental health promotion interventions for young people in low- and middle-income countries. *BMC public health*, *13*(1), 835.
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  Counseling outcomes from 1990 to 2008 for school-age youth with depression: A meta-analysis.

  Journal of Counseling & Development, 89(4), 439-457.

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- Garber, J., Brunwasser, S. M., Zerr, A. A., Schwartz, K. T., Sova, K., & Weersing, V. R. (2016).

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**S4** Pre-specified characteristics for the analysis based on previous studies on associations with reporting quality.

Characteristic	Previous studies reporting on associations with reporting quality
Number of authors	Bigna (2016) [2] Chen (2018) [3] Fang (2020) [9] Fleming (2012) [10] Guo (2014) [4] Hua (2015) [5] Jin (2016) [11] Kiriakou (2014) [6] Menne (2021) [7] Seehra (2013) [12] Song (2017) [13] Wang (2021) [8] Zhang (2021) [14]
Sample size	Baulig (2018) [15] Chen (2018) [3] Fang et al. (2020) Jin (2016) [11] Mbuagbaw (2014) [16] Song (2017) [13] Sriganesh (2017) [17] Wang (2021) [8]
Number of sampling points	Chen (2018) [3] Fang (2020) [9] Fleming (2012) [10] Guo (2014) [4] Hua (2015) [5] Jin (2016) [11] Kiriakou (2014) [6] Mbuagbaw (2014) [16] Menne (2021) [7] Seehra (2013) [12] Song (2017) [13] Sriganesh (2017) [17] Wang (2021) [8] Zhang (2021) [14]
Abstract word count	Baulig (2018) [15] Chen (2018) [3] Fang et al. (2020) Guo (2014) [4] Hua (2015) [5] Jin (2016) [11] Knippschild (2021) [18] Menne (2021) [7] Wang (2021) [8]

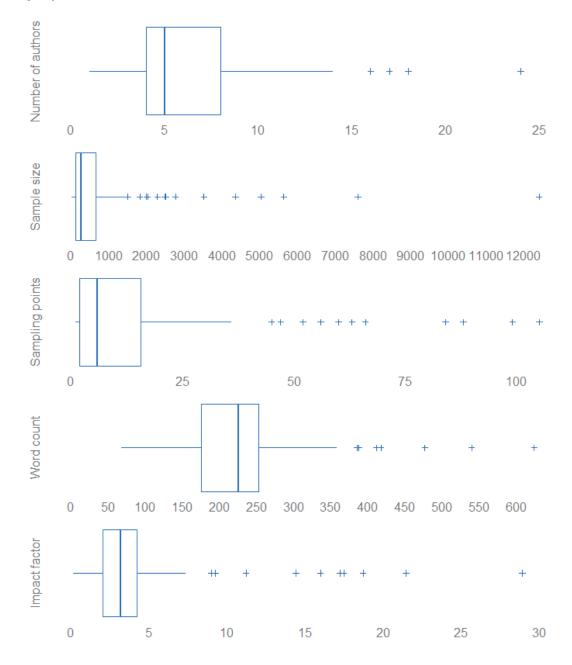
#### S4 Continued.

Characteristic	Previous studies reporting on associations with reporting quality
Journal impact factor	Baulig (2018) [15] Bigna (2016) [2] Chen (2018) [3] Cui (2014) [19] Guo (2014) [4] Hua (2015) [5] Knippschild (2021) [18] Menne (2021) [7] Song (2017) [13] Wang (2021) [8] Zhang (2021) [14]
Abstract format	Bigna (2016) [2] Chen (2018) [3] Fang (2020) [9] Fleming (2012) [10] Guo (2014) [4] Hua (2015) [5] Jin (2016) [11] Knippschild (2021) [18] Menne (2021) [7] Song (2017) [13] Wang (2021) [8] Zhang (2021) [14]
Year of publication	Baulig (2018) [15] Bigna (2016) [2] Can (2011) [20] Chen (2018) [3] Chow (2018) [21] Cui (2014) [19] Guo (2014) [4] Hua (2015) [5] Jin (2016) [11] Knippschild (2021) [18] Mbuagbaw (2014) [16] Menne (2021) [7] Sivendran (2015) [22] Song (2017) [13] Speich (2019) [23] Sriganesh (2017) [17]

**S5** Variables extracted during the data collection process according to S4.

Variable	Definition	Source
Number of authors	The number of authors who have published the trial report.	First page of the trial report
Sample size	The number of subjects in all study arms.	Methods of the manuscript
Number of sampling points	The number of sampling points in all study arms.	Methods of the manuscript
Abstract word count	The number of words used only for the abstract, excluding keywords, author information and such.	Abstract of the trial report
Journal impact factor	The journal impact factor calculated from data indexed in the Web of Science Core Collection. If data was missing for a certain year, the journal impact factor from the latest year available was used.	Journal Citation Reports as provided by Clarivate
Abstract format	The number of sections used to structure the abstract. Following Hua et al., abstracts where categorized as unstructured (1 section), structured (2-4 sections) or highly structured (>4 sections). [24]	Abstract of the trial report
Year of publication	The year in which the trial report was first published.	First page of the trial report

**S6** Boxplots visualizing the distribution of continuous variables possibly related to overall reporting quality.



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**S7** Interrater-reliability (Cohen's Kappa) and adequate reporting (proportion of trial abstracts) in 169 abstracts assessed according to CONSORT-A and CONSORT-C checklist items.

Item	Extension	Description	C	Cohen's kappa		Proportion of trial abstract that reported		
Item	for cluster trials *	Description	unweighted	equal weights	squared weights	adequately	inadequately	not at all
General items								
01 Title	No	a) Identification of the study as randomized	.96	.96	.96	58.0	-	42.0
	Yes	b) Identification of study as cluster randomized	1		1	31.8	-	68.2
02 Trial design	No	Description of the trial design (e.g. parallel, cluster, non-inferiority)	.38	.45	.53	30.2	66.3	3.6
Trial								
Methodology								
03 Participants	No	a) Eligibility criteria for participants <u>and</u> the settings where the data were collected **				35.5	62.1	2.4
		(i) The authors report eligibility criteria for participants	.77	.78	.80	80.5	17.2	2.4
		(ii) The authors report eligibility criteria for setting	.81	.85	.89	35.5	30.2	34.3
	Yes	b) Eligibility criteria for clusters	.80		.79	47.0	30.3	22.7
04 Interventions	No	Interventions intended for each group **				30.8	68.0	1.2
		(i) Authors report essential features of the experimental intervention	.80	.81	.82	52.7	45.6	1.8
		(ii) Authors report essential features of the comparison intervention	.76	.82	.86	47.9	21.3	30.8

# **S7** Continued.

Itam	Extension	Description	C	ohen's kappa		Proportion of trial abstract that reported		
Item	for cluster trials *	Description	unweighted	equal weights	squared weights	adequately	inadequately	not at all
Trial Methodology								
05 Objective	No Yes	(a) Specific objective <u>or</u> hypothesis (b) Whether objective <u>or</u> hypothesis pertains to the cluster level, the individual participant level, <u>or</u> both	.73 .66	.74	.76 .89	89.9 1.5	8.3	1.8 98.5
06 Outcome	No	(a) Clearly defined primary outcome for this report **  (i) Authors explicitly state the primary outcome	.91	.91	.91	10.1 14.8	89.9 84.6	0.6
		(ii) Authors explicitly state when the primary outcome was assessed	.69	.78	.84	515	23.1	25.4
	Yes	(b) Whether the primary outcome pertains to the cluster level, the individual participant level or both	.56		.61	3.0	3.0	93.9
07 Randomization	No	(a) How participants were allocated to interventions	.49	.59	.66	2.4	-	97.6
	Yes	(b) How clusters were allocated to interventions	.88		.88	6.1	-	93.9

## S7 Continued.

Trans	Extension	Develope	C	ohen's kappa		Proportion of trial abstract that reported		
Item	for cluster trials *	Description	unweighted	equal weights	squared weights	adequately	inadequately	not at all
Trial Methodology								
08 Blinding (masking)	No	Whether or not participants, care givers, <u>and</u> those assessing the outcomes were blinded to group assignment **				-	3.6	96.4
		(i) Authors describe if participants were blinded	.77	.85	.92	1.2	1.8	97.0
		(ii) Authors describe if program deliverer were blinded	.77	.85	.92	1.2	1.8	97.0
		(iii) Authors describe if data collectors/analysts were blinded	.66	.66	.66	0.6	1.8	97.6
Trial results								
09 Numbers randomized	No	(a) Number of participants randomized to each group	.95	.97	.98	32.0	1.8	66.3
	Yes	(b) Number of clusters randomized to each group	.76		.78	13.6	1.5	84.8
10 Numbers analyzed	No	(a) Number of participants analyzed in each group	.88	.93	.96	3.6	2.4	94.1
•	Yes	(b) Number of clusters analyzed in each group	1		1	1.5	-	98.5

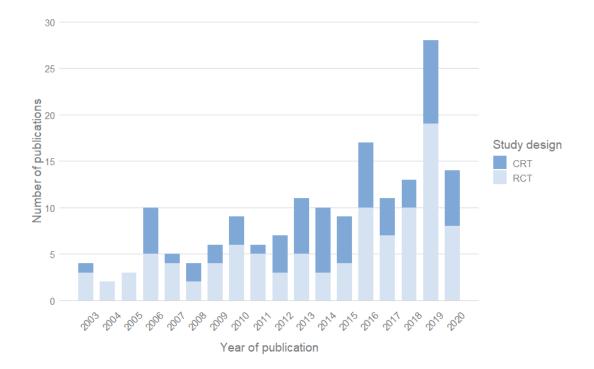
#### S7 Continued.

Trans	Extension	Developer	C	ohen's kappa			of trial abstract	that
Item	for cluster trials *	Description	unweighted	equal weights	squared weights	adequately	inadequately	not at all
Trial results								
11 Outcome	No	(a) For the primary outcome, a result for each group and the estimated effect size and its precision	.94	.94	.94	27.2	72.8	-
	Yes	(b) Results at the cluster <u>or</u> individual level as applicable for each primary outcome	.96		.96	28.8	71.2	-
12 Harms	No	Important adverse events <u>or</u> side effects	0***	0***	0***	0.6	-	99.4
13 Conclusions	No	General interpretation of the results **				36.7	47.3	16.0
		(i) Authors state the conclusions of the trial	.75	.79	.82	71.0	1.8	27.2
		(ii) Authors state implications for further research or clinical practice	.74	.78	.81	46.2	8.3	45.6
14 Trial registration	No	Registration number <u>and</u> name of trial register **				17.2	3.0	79.9
		(i) Authors provide details on the trial registration number	1	1	1	20.1	-	79.9
		(ii) Authors provide details on the name of the trial register	.98	.98	.98	17.2	0.6	82.2
15 Funding	No	Source of funding	.88	.89	.95	11.8	0.6	87.6

Comments: Items corresponding to author contact information and trial status were not assessed because these items are specific to conference abstracts that were excluded from this study. Because journals often have their own standards for positioning funding information, we rated funding as adequately reported if it was reported in the abstract or in a section other than the abstract (e.g., at the end of the article). Due to rounding errors, the percentages may not add up.

- \* Studies that randomized their intervention on the cluster level were assessed for adherence to CONSORT-A <u>and CONSORT-C (N = 66)</u>. Studies that randomized on the individual level were evaluated for adherence to CONSORT-A, only (N = 103). As a result, all 169 reports were assessed for CONSORT-A, but only 66 cluster randomized trial reports were additionally checked for CONSORT-C.
- \*\* For those items where multiple dimensions are required, we operationalized each dimension separately. Subsequently we merged these dimensions into summary variables. If all dimensions were reported adequately, the summary variable was reported inadequately. If at least one dimension was reported inadequately, the summary variable was reported inadequately. If all dimensions were not reported, the summary variable was not reported.
- \*\*\* The agreement of the CONSORT items Harms was almost identical. Kappa is nevertheless equal to zero. The correction factor of the kappa formula is responsible for this paradox. The factor corrects for random agreement between raters. If the proportion of observed agreement is high, it can lower the kappa values toward zero. For further explanation and examples, see Feinstein and Cicchetti. [25]

**S8** Annual number of included trial reports by study design between January 2003 and August 2020 (N= 169).



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