



Concurrent & Longitudinal Associations between Preschool Parenting and Child Psychopathology: Does Exposure to Different Types of Adversity Play a Role?

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Introduction

Parenting & Child Psychopathology

- Well-established concurrent associations but still inconsistent among longitudinal studies (Pinquart, 2017)
- Cross-stage impacts (childhood parenting & adolescent mental health) are even more inconclusive and need more research (Clayborne et al., 2021)

Exposure to Adversity as Moderator

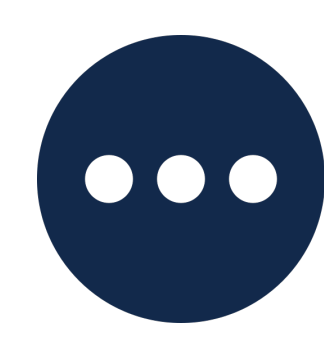
- Parental influences are shown to be amplified for children exposed to adversity experiences (Callahan et al., 2011)
- Distinct dimensions of adversity are linked with psychopathology through distinct pathways (McLaughlin & Sheridan, 2016)



Threat



Deprivation



Other Adversity

Aims

- Examine the concurrent and longitudinal influences of preschool parenting behaviors on children's mental health
- Test whether different types of adversity exposure moderate the relationships

Discussion

Interpretations

- Impacts of preschool parenting may not last into adolescence as adolescents seek independence from parents and spend more time with peers
- Parental impacts may be subject to individual differences (e.g. genetic sensitivity to environmental stimulus)
- What actually interacts with adversity exposure may be long-term parenting pattern instead of parenting behaviors at one time point

Limitations

- Not fully recruited sample
 - Sample size may be too small to capture true effect
 - Recruited sample bias towards positive parenting
- Observational assessment of parenting measures parenting behaviors under neutral but not stressful contexts; the later one may be more related to interactions with adversity exposure

Acknowledgement

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Methods

2007

Baseline Phase 1

- 917 parent-child dyads
- In-home interviews & questionnaires

Preschool Pscyhopathology

Preschool Age Psychiatric Assessment (PAPA)

Exposure to Adversity

- Questions selected from
- PAPA Interview
 - Conflict Tactics Scale Parent-Child
 - Revised Conflict Tactics Scale

2007

Baseline Phase 2

- $N = 502$ (469 valid)
- In-lab assessment of parenting behaviors

Preschool Parenting Behaviors

- Parents and children completed instructed tasks such as coloring
- 10-min recorded interactions were coded on a 5-point scale
- Towe-Goodman PCI Coding System
- Positive parenting: sensitivity etc.
- Negative parenting: intrusiveness etc.

2021

Adolescent Phase

- $N = 215$
- Adolescents completed online questionnaires

Adolescent Psychopathology

- Youth/Adult Self Report (YSR/ASR)
- Internalizing, externalizing, and overall scores



Please scan me for more detailed information about the measures used ;)

Baseline Sample

- $N = 469$ children ages 2-6 with their caregivers
- Mean Age = 3.6 years ($SD = 1.17$)

Adolescent Sample

- $N = 133$ adolescents ages 15-21 years
- Mean Age = 17.35 years ($SD = 1.45$)
- About a half (56%) were females
- Mainly consisted of White (57.9%) & Black (33.8%)
- Biased towards positive parenting compared with non-recruited sample

Results

- More negative preschool parenting behaviors were **significantly associated** with higher levels of overall psychopathology in children concurrently ($r = .12, p = .003$)
- Preschool parenting behaviors were **not significantly associated** with adolescent internalizing ($\beta_{posi} = -.34, p = .60; \beta_{nega} = .03, p = .93$), externalizing ($\beta_{posi} = -.58, p = .28; \beta_{nega} = .03, p = .93$), or overall psychopathology ($\beta_{posi} = -.30, p = .62; \beta_{nega} = -.25, p = .52$)
- Exposure to threat, deprivation, or other adversity did **not significantly moderate** the relationships

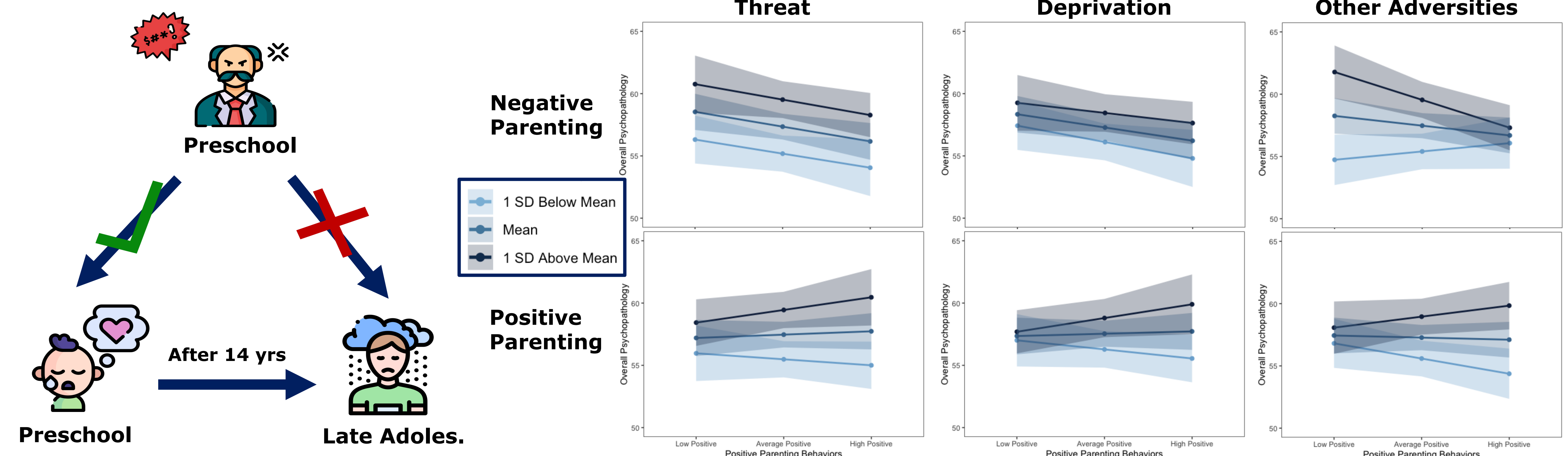


Figure 1. Interactions between adversity exposure and preschool parenting in predicting adolescent overall psychopathology