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)

**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

**Methods**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Baseline Phase 1</th>
<th>Baseline Phase 2</th>
<th>Adolescent Phase</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>• 917 parent-child dyads • In-home interviews &amp; questionnaires</td>
<td>• N = 502 (469 valid) • In-lab assessment of parenting behaviors</td>
<td>• N = 215 • Adolescents completed online questionnaires</td>
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**Preschool Psychopathology**
- Preschool Age Psychiatric Assessment (PAPA)

**Preschool Parenting Behaviors**
- Parents and children completed instructed tasks such 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.

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

**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**
Special thanks to my best mentor Megan and advisor Dr. Sheridan for all the guidance and support

**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 ($\beta_{pos} = -.34, p = .60; \beta_{neg} = .03, p = .93$), externalizing ($\beta_{pos} = -.58, p = .28; \beta_{neg} = .03, p = .93$), or overall psychopathology ($\beta_{pos} = -.30, p = .62; \beta_{neg} = -.25, p = .52$)
- 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