

Examining the Relationship of Exposure to Trauma Before Pregnancy, and Parental Bonding Type on the Social-Emotional Development of Children Under the Age of 5

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Abstract

Objective: Examine the relationship between exposure to trauma before pregnancy, and Parental Bonding Type on the dimensions of Social-Emotional Development of children under the age of 5.

Methods: The current study Participants of the Stress in Pregnancy Study completed the PDS, PBI, and BASC-2 PRS. Participants were divided based on mother's exposure to a traumatic event before pregnancy, and by their parental bonding type, with mothers falling into either Affectionate Constraint, or Optimal Parental Bonding Types ($n=58$).

Results: There was no significant relationship between exposure to trauma, and the frequency of a particular parental bonding type. Exposure to trauma resulted in significantly lower Internalizing Index score on the BASC-2 PRS. Parents with Affectionate Constraint Bonding Type resulted in better attention scores than Optimal Bonding. There was an interaction effect; parents who were not exposed to trauma and had optimal parenting styles had children with the most effective and safe manners of completing daily tasks.

Conclusion: This research demonstrates that exposure to trauma, Parental Bonding Type, and the interaction contribute differently to the child's Social-Emotional Development.

Background

- Social-Emotional Development is a precursor for later cognitive and social capacities (Durlak, Weissberg 2011).
- Maternal trauma has been found to play a role in the parenting style. Mothers exposed to childhood trauma and abuse are at risk of incorporating more confining and constraining parenting style, with increased parental dissatisfaction (Banyard, Williams, and Siegel, 2003).
- Folger, Putnam. Putnam, Peugh, Eismann, Sa, and Shapiro (2017) found that exposure to interpersonal trauma for mothers negatively impacted a child's social emotional development.

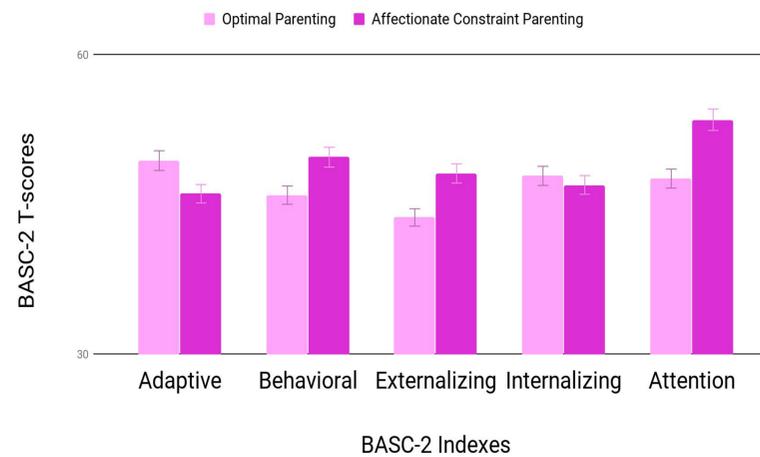
Methods/ Materials

Sample Population: A total of 58 mothers were selected from the longitudinal birth cohort study (SIP Study, PI:Yoko Nomura).

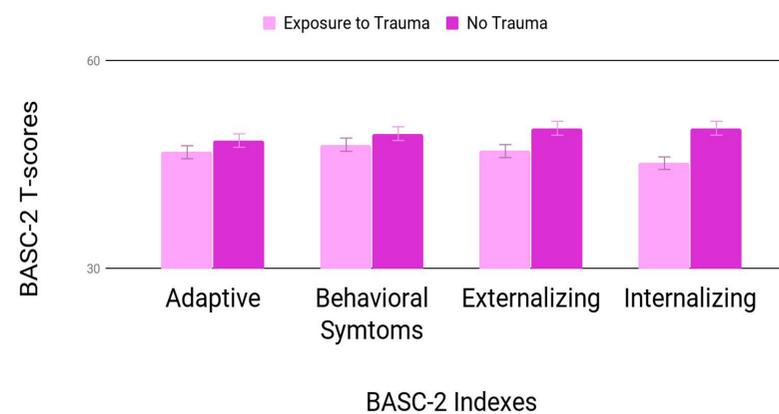
Measures: Exposure to trauma was assessed using the Posttraumatic Stress Diagnostic Scale (i.e., PDS); pre-pregnancy ($n= 27$), and no trauma($n=31$). Parental Bonding was assessed using the Parental Bonding Instrument (i.e.,PBI). Mothers fell into either Optimal Parental Bonding ($n= 32$), or Affectionate Constraint Bonding ($n= 26$). The Behavior Assessment System for Children Parental Response Scale (i.e., BASC-2 PRS) was used to assess the dimensions of Social-Emotional Development.

Analysis: A chi square was run to assess frequency significance of a particular bonding type. A multivariate ANOVA was run to assess the effects of trauma and PBI on Social-Emotional Development.

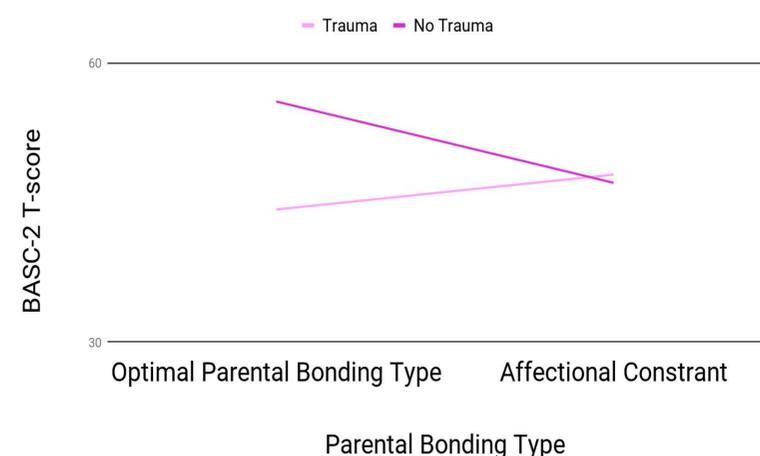
Parental Bonding Type and Child Social-Emotional Development



Exposure to Trauma and Child Social-Emotional Development



Activities of Daily Living



Results

- A chi-square test of goodness-of-fit was performed to examine if exposure to trauma before pregnancy led to a particular type of bonding. Exposure to trauma before pregnancy did not lead to a particular type of trauma ($\chi^2 (1, n = 58) = .087, p > .05$).
- A multiple factor ANOVA was performed to assess the effect of trauma before pregnancy, and parental bonding type on the social emotional development of children under 5 years old. There was significant main effect of exposure to trauma before pregnancy and internalizing index score on the BASC-2 PRS ($F (1, 58) = 4.064, p < .05$). This result indicates that children of mothers with pre-pregnancy trauma have a less developed internalizing emotional control. There was also a main effect of parental bonding type on the social emotional development of children under the age of 5; children with affectionate constraint parents have better attention scores ($F (1, 58) = 5.708, p < .05$). Significant interaction effect was found for children with mothers who have the optimal bonding type, and no exposure to trauma being able to perform daily activities ($F (1, 58) = 4.427, p < .05$).

Discussion

- This study did not support previous research that mothers who experience trauma are at risk of neglectful parenting (Banyard, et.al., 2003).
- The better attention scores for children of mothers with Affectionate Constraint Parental Bonding Type could suggest that overprotection in parenting contributes to attention. Previous research demonstrates these two Parental Bonding Types having no significant difference in externalizing, and internalizing dimensions (Ong, Eilander, Saw, Xie, Meaney, Broekman, 2017).
- Children with mothers exposed to trauma had significantly lower internalizing indexes scores, which supports previous research indicating maternal exposure to trauma negatively impacts Social-Emotional Development (Folger, et.al., 2017).
- Mothers with optimal Parental Bonding Type and no exposure to trauma had children who demonstrated the safest and most effective manners of daily activities; the two factors could impact functionality.
- The Social-Emotional Development of a child is vital to long term cognitive and social development. This study provides valuable insight on maternal role both during and before child rearing.