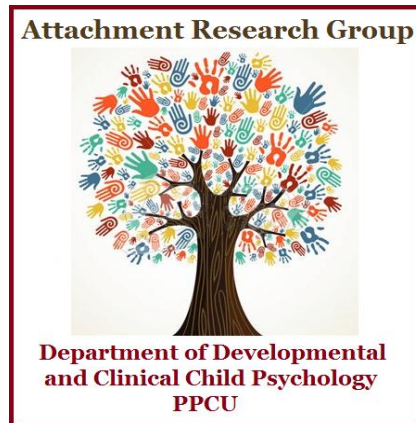


Early Development and Attachment Research Group
Department of Developmental and Clinical Child Psychology
Pázmány Péter Catholic University

Selected Publications
(2009-2014)



DEVELOPMENTAL RISK AND PARENT-INFANT RELATIONSHIP RESEARCH PROGRAMME

Patterns of Attachment in Infancy and Childhood – A Longitudinal Study of Attachment of Preterm Children Born with Very Low Birth Weight.

Serdülő- és Gyermekpszichoterápia., 2009, 9(1). 100-111. (in Hungarian)

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The investigation of longitudinal patterns of attachment representations of children (and their mothers) born with very low birth weight have been presented in this study. 21 VLBW (birth weight between 750gr-1100gr) healthy preterm children and their mothers participated in this study. Control group of children were adjusted in age, health status and SES. Face to face interaction patterns were studied in the Still Face Paradigm (Tronick et al, 1978) at 9 month of infant age. Infant attachment was assessed by the Strange Situation Paradigm (Ainsworth et al, 1978) at 12 months. Attachment representations of both children and their mothers were explored by the Draw Your Family (Malchiodi, 2003) and the Bird's Nest Drawing (Kaiser, 1996) tests. A newly developed coding system was applied to evaluate attachment related contents of the drawings. Maternal separation anxiety was measured by the Maternal Separation Anxiety Scale (Hock et al, 1989) at 12 month of infant and at 7-9 year of child age.



Results: Significant correlations between infant attachment patterns and school age characteristics of attachment representations have been found. Mothers' ability to read their preterm infant's behavioural cues at 9 month together with optimal level of maternal anxiety at 12 month have predicted secure attachment representations of children and mothers at school age both in preterm and control groups. This result has demonstrated that maternal mind-mindedness could be a protective factor even in the long-term development of secure attachment patterns in children born preterm

Keywords: longitudinal assessment of attachment patterns, very low birth weight preterm infants, maternal mind-mindedness, protective factors.

Parental expectations of infant's achievement in cognitive developmental tasks at 9 month – in preterm infants and infants with Down Syndrome.

Ergin, C (ed.): Understanding and embracing diversity. *12th European Congress of Psychology*, 4/8 July, 2011. Istanbul, Turkey. 950.

<http://ehu.es/gip/publicaciones/congresos/2011/>

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Authors present preliminary results of the CIV Scale (Infant Intentional Behaviour Scale) developed at the Institute of Psychology at the PPKE. The CIV Scale assesses 8-10 month old infant's intentional and problem solving behaviours in a set of structured situations, and parental expectations of the child's behaviours in these situations. The 16 items present tasks that assess broad range of cognitive developmental achievements, like object constancy, producing reciprocity in social interactions, using imitation for problem solving, etc.

The Scale was administered to 21 VLBW preterm, 18 Down Syndrome and 20 typically developing infants at 9 month of age. Parental Expectation Profile, Child's Achievement Profile, and Parent-Child Correspondance Profile were evaluated in each groups. Our results show that compared to typically developing infants, parents of preterm and of Down Syndrome babies tend to underestimate their child behaviours in several albeit different domains. Results of group specific characteristics of the three Profiles as well as the possibilities for intervention based on these Profiles are discussed.

Keywords: infant cognitive development, parental expectations, Down syndrome, preterm infants, CIV Scale, group specific Profiles.



Parental interpretation of infant behavior in preterm and Down Syndrome children – Possibilities of intervention in video-observation

"Possibilities in the field of early childhood intervention - FROM BIRTH TO THREE YEARS OF AGE". International Conference of the Early Intervention Center of Budapest, 29/31 October, 2012.

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We present parts of our results of the „Developmental Risk Research Programme” that has been carried out between 2007 and 2011 at the Institute of Psychology of the Pázmány Péter Catholic University. The „Baby-videos” Procedure – that had been elaborated in our Institute as a part of this programme – was administered to parents of 3 months old typically developing, preterm and Down Syndrome infants. Parents were asked to observe and interpret short video-segments of unknown 6-12 months old babies interacting either with an object or a person. They were also asked to indicate if they thought that any of the 21 babies might have born with any type of developmental risk and were asked to explain the reasons of their perceptions. At 9 months infant age 5 minutes mother-infant interaction was videotaped in a semi-structured play situation. Their interactions was then played back and mothers were asked to interpret their babies behaviours.

The analysis of parental responses on the „Baby-videos” has shown that parental attributions of developmental risk significantly differed in the three groups. Compared to Down Syndrome and typically developing infants, parents of preterm babies attributed more problems of motor development and emotional regulation to unknown babies behaviours. In contrast, parents of Down Syndrome infants interpreted certain behaviors as indicating delay in cognitive development, problems in feeding and disorders of communication. The clues for attributing developmental risk showed group-specific features and reflected specific parental worries about the future regarding their own baby.

We found significant differences among the three groups regarding the quality of mother-infant playing at 9 month of infant age, as well as in maternal interpretations of their own babies behaviours. However, playing back the videos and talking about their own children proved to be a useful tool for „natural intervention”. While watching the interactions between themselves and their child, parents often observed and reflected to significant interactions they had been blind of during playing.

Keywords: developmental risk, parental interpretation of infant' behaviour, play interactions, Down Syndrome, preterm babies, early intervention.



Risk factors, adaptation and resilience - Prematurity in the model of developmental psychopathology

Magyar Pszichológiai Szemle, 2013, 68, 1. 7-22. DOI: 10.1556/MPSzle.68.2013.1.2 (in Hungarian)

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In this study I review the literature, regarding the salient steps of research on preterm infants in the context of the developing theories, concepts and methodology of developmental psychopathology. The past 50 years of literature on the topic demonstrates significant changes in the aims, methods and models of analysis of preterm research. Developmental psychopathology and preterm research had different methods, concepts and models in the 70's and 80's. There was an approach between the two only in the middle of the 80's. Preterm research started to imply concepts of developmental psychopathology from the late 90's. From the 2000's several results came out in the context of modern models of developmental psychopathology through which patterns of adaptation and maladaptation and pathways influencing that could be explored in the development of preterm infants and children.

Current results of infant research have pointed out that complex effects of biological and environmental factors have to be taken into account in order to identify normal and pathological patterns of developmental paths of the preterm populations. These findings can help in refining the early intervention programmes for this population.

Keywords: developmental psychopathology, preterm research, adaptations, resilience, risk factors, protective factors.

