

Indirect effects of contextual risks on children's behaviour: The role of maternal differential parenting

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Theoretical Framework

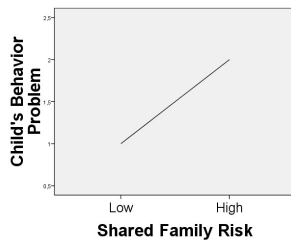
- Differential Parenting (DP) as a negative phenomenon
 - Social comparison (Festinger, 1954) & Distributive justice (Deutsch, 1985): If children treated very differently, increase in behavioural problem.
- Parental capabilities as a resources
 - The more resources parents have, the more equitable they will be (Low/Normative DP)
 - But parents have a finite amount of resources...

Theoretical Framework (cont.)

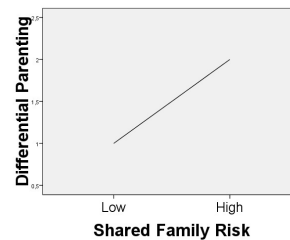
- Family risk factors:
 - e.g. poverty, depression, divorce,...
 - Poorer children's outcomes
 - Limit parental resources : higher DP
 - When resources devoted to cope with adversity, parents have less resources to pay attention to equitable treatment (preference,... Henderson et al., 1996)

Theoretical Framework: In sum

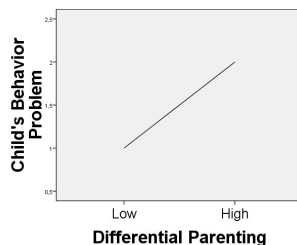
Risk factors-Child's behavior



Risk factors-DP



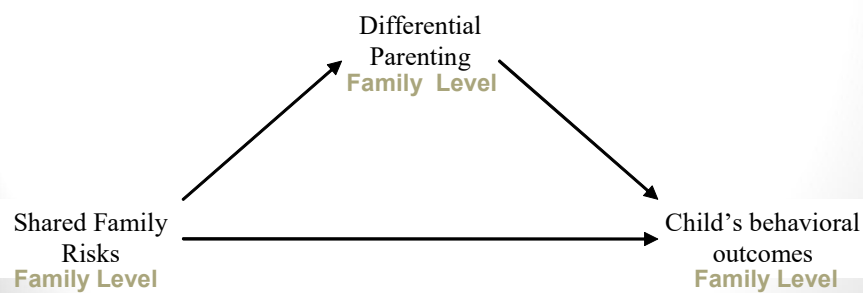
DP-Child's behavior



How are these variables related ?

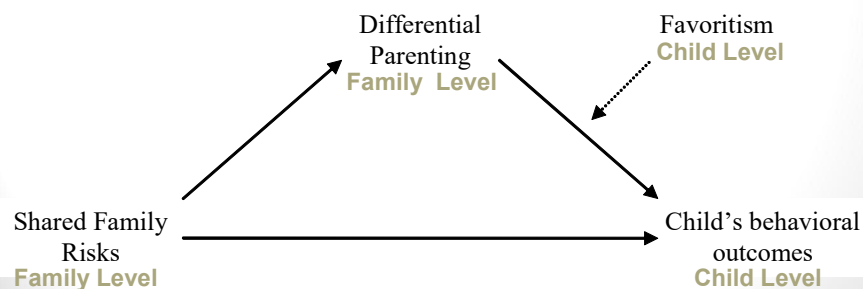
Primary hypothesis

- Children affected by shared family risk factors both directly and indirectly through DP
 - At the **Family Level** (mediation)
 - Deleterious for all children in the family (*magnitude* of DP)



Secondary hypothesis

- Indirect effect through DP should be worst for the disfavored child
 - At the **Child Level** (moderated mediation)
 - More deleterious for the disfavored child (*direction* of DP)



Method: Sample

- 920 children nested in 397 families
 - Up to 4 children/families
- Children's age and gender
 - Age : $M=3.51$ ($SD = 2.38$)
 - Gender: 475 boys, 445 girls
- Siblings age and gender composition
 - Age difference : $M=2.27$ ($SD= 1.19$)
 - Gender: 229 mixed gender, 89 all-boy, 79 all-girl
- Two-waves : Risk (T1), DP & Child's behavior (T2)

Method: Measures

- Shared family risk
 - Mother's educational level (self-reported)
 - Family type (self-reported)
 - Lone-parent- and Step-families Vs. Two-parent-families
 - Maternal depression (self-reported)
 - CES-D (Radloff, 1977)
 - Maternal history of abuse (self-reported)
 - CEVQ (Walsh et al., 2008)
 - Household chaos (independant observer)
 - 4 items from HOME (Bradley & Caldwell, 1981) : order, cleanliness and safety of physical environment

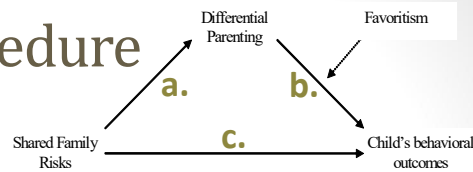
Method: Measures (cont.)

- Family level DP (negativity)
 - Self-reported (all siblings, N=920)
 - Parenting towards each siblings
 - Negativity (NLSCY, 1995)
 - Observed (two youngest siblings, N=794)
 - Mother interacting with the two kids
 - Mean Negative affect and Negative control (CARP, Matias et al., 2006; PARCHISY, Deater-Deckard et al., 1997)
 - Scores : Family SD
- Favoritism score
 - Dummy code : Equal treatment and favoured Vs. Disfavoured

Method: Measures (cont.)

- Children's behaviour (parents' report)
 - Aggression, Emotional & Attentional problem
 - Ontario Child Health Study (Boyle et al., 1993)
 - Averaged mothers-fathers' scores
 - Social relationships
 - Ontario Child Health Study (Sanford et al., 1992)
 - Mothers' scores

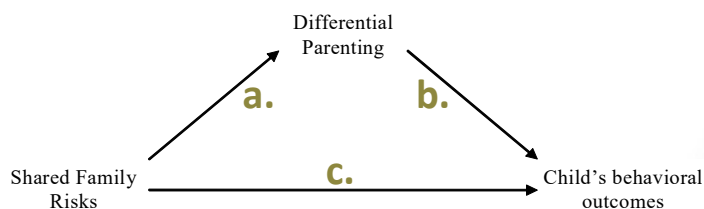
Method: Procedure



- Simple effects
 - Path a
 - On DP: Controlling for sibling age and gender composition
 - Paths b & c
 - On Child's behaviour: Controlling for age and gender
- Mediation (Delta method)
 - Indirect: 'a x b' (Sobel, 1982)
 - Each outcome: 12 tests (6 predictors, 2 mediators)
- Moderated mediation (Delta method)
 - Difference in 'a x b' for fav/disfav (Praecher et al., 2007)
- Stats : ML, multiple imputation (bootstrap not possible)

Results: Simple effects

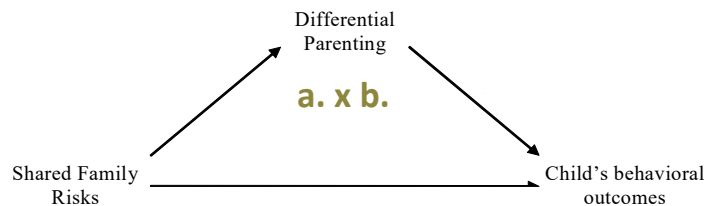
- Path a*
 - Household chaos, lone-parent, depression, history of abuse, educational level, step-families
- Path b*
 - Emotional, attentional problem and social relationships
- Path c
 - 20/24 sig. (6 risks on 4 outcomes)



* Underlined: shown for the 2 DP measures. Not underlined: shown for only 1 DP measure.

Results: Aggression

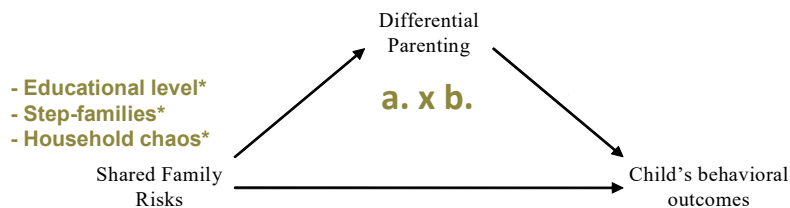
- Mediation
 - No sig. mediation



- Moderated mediation (fav/disfav)
 - Only for mothers' report of DP
 - **5 Diff. Sig.**: step-families, lone-parent-families, depression, history of abuse and household chaos

Results: Emotional problem

- Mediation



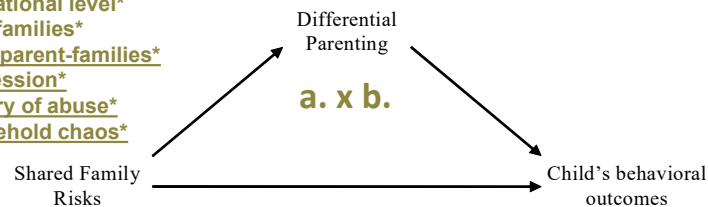
- Moderated mediation (fav/disfav)
 - Only for mothers' report of DP
 - **2 Diff. Sig.**: step-families and lone-parent-families

* Underlined: shown for the 2 DP measures. Not underlined: shown for only 1 DP measure.

Results: Attentional problem

- Mediation

- Educational level*
- Step-families*
- Lone-parent-families*
- Depression*
- History of abuse*
- Household chaos*



- Moderated mediation (fav/disfav)

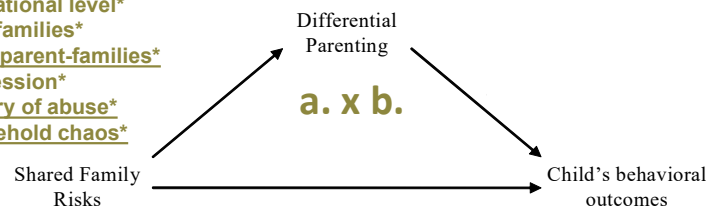
- Only for mothers' report of DP
- 1 Diff. Sig.: Household chaos

* Underlined: shown for the 2 DP measures. Not underlined: shown for only 1 DP measure.

Results: Social Relation

- Mediation

- Educational level*
- Step-families*
- Lone-parent-families*
- Depression*
- History of abuse*
- Household chaos*



- Moderated mediation (fav/disfav)

- Only for mothers' report of DP
- 2 Diff. Sig.: Step-families and household chaos

* Underlined: shown for the 2 DP measures. Not underlined: shown for only 1 DP measure.

Conclusion

- Direct effects of risk for each behavior (*path c*)
- Indirect effects partially confirmed (*mediation*)
 - For all risks
 - Especially on Attentional problem and Social relations
 - In some cases: cascade effects
 - e.g. Household chaos only affect social relations indirectly through increased DP
- Importance of mother's report of favoritism (moderated mediation)
 - Stronger indirect effect for the child reported to be disfavored : especially for Aggression