

## **Attachment-related Expectations and Mother-referent Memory Bias in Middle Childhood**

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### **Abstract:**

Understanding the cognitive processing of attachment-relevant information has become a major focus of attachment research. Previous research demonstrated links between attachment and memory for attachment-related information, but results were contradictory and did not control for mood-effects. The current study aimed to provide a conceptual framework to capture inconsistencies. A straightforward memory bias hypothesis was derived and tested. Fifty children (aged 10 – 12) completed questionnaires assessing confidence in maternal support and depressive symptoms, and completed memory task in which they were asked to recall positive and negative words that referred to previous interactions with mother. Less confidence in maternal support and more depressive symptoms were linked to a more negative mother-related memory bias. Furthermore, the effect of confidence in maternal support remained significant when controlling for depressive symptoms, explaining the initial effect of depressive symptoms. These findings support attachment theory's hypothesis that attachment-relevant information is processed in an attachment-expectation congruent way.

Schrijven uit benadering depressie

Depressie hangt samen met biases: geheugenbias

Vraag: hangt dat ook samen met neg. herinneringen aan relaties? → Mother-referent? Ipv algemene herinneringen?

Is dat depressiespecifiek? Of hangt dat ook samen met hechting?