PARENT- CHILD INTERACTION

IN YOUNG CHILDREN

A longitudinal approach

WITH A SIGNIFICANT COGNITIVE AND MOTOR DEVELOPMENTAL DELAY

BACKGROUND & AIMS

It is generally acknowledged that parents are primary agents of developmental change in their children

BUT knowledge on parenting in this specific target group is very scarce, even though the limitations of the children provide parents with complex challenges

According to constructivist theories, interactive engagement behaviors are pivotal for further development.
A previous study showed parent's responsive behavior is related to children's interactive engagement, but did not shed light on the direction of this association

The aim of this study is to characterize the (in)variability & mutual influence of parent's interactional style and child interactive engagement throughout early childhood

PARTICIPANTS & METHODS

35 PARENT-CHILD DYADS

18 7 | 19 6

26-46 years | 14-57 months

CHILD IMPAIRMENTS

100% | 49%

100% | 8%

Maternal & Child Behavior Rating Scale
(Mahoney, 1998, 1999)

x5

6-month intervals



CONCLUSIONS

DISCUSSION

CHILD

Attention

Initiation

PARENT

Responsive behavior

Affect/ warmth

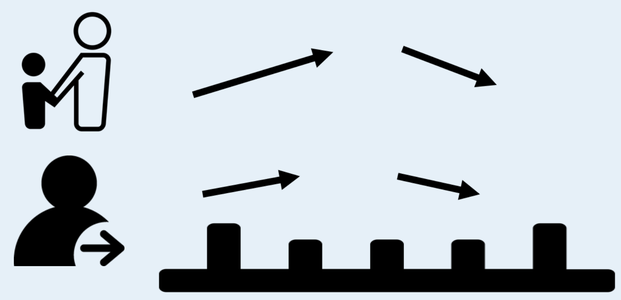
Directiveness

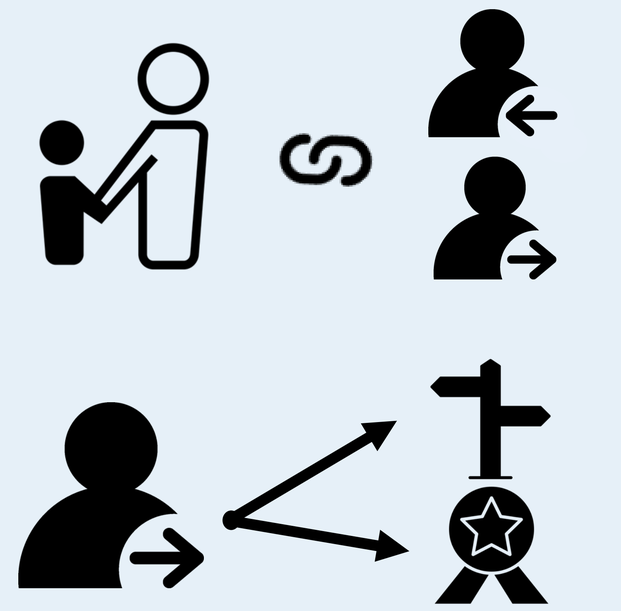
Achievement orientation

Stability or change?

Stable momentary associations?

Predictive associations?





- No consistently increasing or decreasing group-level trend was found in child nor parental behavior
- Within singular concrete interactions, parent's responsive behavior and child behavior are strongly related
- Initial child initiation seems to positively predict parents' achievement orientation & directive behavior 2 years later
- Do parents 'lose hope' for developmental benefits resulting from a directive/achievement oriented approach?

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Van keer, I., Ceulemans, E., Bodner, N., Van Leeuwen, K., & Maes, B. (submitted). Parental behavior and child interactive engagement: a longitudinal study on children with a significant cognitive and motor developmental delay. Research and Practice for Persons with Severe Disabilities.

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