Emerging Self-Regulation in Toddlers Born Preterm: Parenting, Temperamental, or Differential Susceptibility?

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Key words: Self-regulation; Parenting; Preterm; Temperament; Differential susceptibility

Introduction & Research Questions

Preterm low birthweight infants are at risk for compromised development in self-regulation and behavior problems (e.g., effortful control and affect regulation), which are associated with later adverse outcomes (Robson & Gonzalez, 1999). As a result, it is imperative that researchers investigate the underlying mechanisms that contribute to efforts to mitigate these risks. Between preterm birth and child outcomes to prevent premature infants, the current study investigated the relative contributions of classical models of pathways leading from child and family factors to measures of toddler self-regulation (e.g., effortful control and behavior problems). We proposed a model testing whether parenting quality during early play interactions is associated with efforts to mitigate these risks, and whether these risks are associated with temperament and behavior problems, whereas controlling for maternal depression, gender, and income. Children with difficulty were expected to be more susceptible to parenting influences (Figure 1).

Method

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