Emerging Self-Regulation in Toddlers Born Preterm or Low Birthweight: The Interaction between Parenting and Temperament

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The findings presented here are consistent with biobehavioral models in suggesting that both early adversity and parenting influence child development. Future implications are:

1. There is little support for the differential susceptibility model in this sample of high-risk infants. Only one significant moderation effect was observed, in the domain of self-regulation, but the direction of the effect was not consistent with the differential susceptibility hypothesis. This finding suggests that differential susceptibility may not be a useful framework for understanding the development of self-regulation in children born at risk for the developmental problems. Future findings are:

- There are at least two reasons for the limited support for the differential susceptibility model in this sample: the small sample size and the heterogeneity of the children. The study included a wide range of children, from those born very prematurely to those born at term, which may have obscured the differential susceptibility effect. Future studies should focus on more homogeneous samples to better test the differential susceptibility model.

- Future research should also examine the moderating role of parenting, as the differential susceptibility model suggests that parenting can influence the development of self-regulation. Understanding the interaction between early adversity and parenting is crucial for developing effective interventions for at-risk children.