

SECURE BASE BEHAVIOR FROM INFANCY TO CHILDHOOD: CAN IT BE MEASURED WITH A SINGLE INSTRUMENT?

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Evaluate AQS adequacy to measure SBB in children from infancy to preschool years

METHOD

Participants

- 88 mother – child dyads
- Three age groups:
 - 32 from 8 to 10 months old
 - 26 from 24 to 48 months
 - 30 from 48 to 72 months old
- 52% were boys and 48% were girls.
- Mothers are from 19 to 45 years old
- They attained at least middle school education



Measures

- Attachment Q Sort 3.0 version - AQS (Waters, 1995)
- Maternal Behavior Q Sort - MBQS (Pederson & Moran, 1995)
- Maternal Behavior for Preschoolers Q Sort – MBPQS (Posada, Kaloustain, Richmond & Moreno, 2007)
- Social Competence and Behavior Evaluation – SCBE (LaFreniere & Dumas, 1998)



Procedures

- One observation of one hour of free mother-child interaction at home.
- Mothers report about her child social competence in preschoolers.

Secure base behavior (SBB; Bowlby, 1988): balance between attachment and exploration systems facilitated by caregiver’s sensitivity to child’s signals. It is related to later child social competence.

Attachment Q Sort (AQS; Waters, 1995):

- 90 items to be observed in free interaction between child and his/her caregiver.
- Q methodology: items must be sorted in 9 groups (10 items each) from least to most characteristics of interaction.
- Results:
 - *Attachment security*: correlation between child punctuation and attachment criteria defined by experts.
 - *Dimensiones of attachment security* (Posada, 1995): 4 scales: Smooth interaction with mother, Proximity to mother, Interactions with other adults and Physical contact with mother.

Sensitivity hypothesis (van Ijzendoorn & Sagi, 2008) Relation between child attachment security and maternal sensitivity

Correlation between security and sensitivity by group age		
Group	r	p
8 to 10 months	.39	.03
24 to 48 months	.45	.02
48 to 72 months	.61	.00

Competence hypothesis (van Ijzendoorn & Sagi, 2008) Relation between child attachment security and social competence

Correlation between security and competence by group age (only for preschoolers)			
Group	Aggressiveness	Anxiety	Social Skills
24 to 48 months	-.73**	-.45	-.05
48 to 72 months	-.29	-.29	-.28

Exploratory Factor Analysis

KMO = .681, Bartlett’s Test (1225) = 2911.67, p < .001

