

To: Alli Paasikivi foundation

Letter of Progress

Asked by Alli Paasikivi foundation concerning my research progress “The Joint Effects of Parenting Styles and Child Characteristics in Children’s Socioemotional Development” I would like to make the following statement.

During the third grant from Alli Paasikivi foundation I have finalized my second study “Parenting Styles and Children’s Emotional Development During the First Grade: The Moderating Role of Child Temperament”. I also finalized the analysis of my third study “Children’s Shyness Moderates the Associations Between Parenting Styles and the Children’s Social Development” and it is under preparation.

The second study investigated the associations between parenting styles and children’s emotional development during the first grade of primary school, and the moderating role of children’s temperament (easy, difficult, and inhibited) in these associations. Both parents of 152 children responded to a questionnaire concerning their parenting styles and their child’s temperament at the beginning of their child’s first grade (Time 1). They also filled in a structured diary questionnaire concerning their child’s negative and positive emotions over seven successive days (diary) at the beginning (Time 1) and at the end (Time 2) of their child’s first grade. The results showed that mothers’ psychological control at the beginning of the first grade was associated with a subsequent high level of negative emotions among children independently of the child’s temperament. Mothers’ high affection, in turn, was associated with subsequent low levels of negative emotions particularly among children with inhibited temperament, whereas mothers’ behavioral control was associated with low levels of negative emotions among children with difficult temperament. Fathers’ psychological control was associated with subsequent high levels of negative emotions among children with difficult temperament. No associations were found between parenting styles and children’s positive emotions.

The third study examined the joint effects of children’s shyness and mothers’ and fathers’ parenting on children’s social development. A total of 91 children were assessed with parent rating according to their shyness at age 3 and according to their prosocial skills at age 4, 5, 6, 8, and 9. Mothers (n = 89) and fathers (n = 87) filled in questionnaires measuring their affection and behavioral control when the children were 4 years old. The results of Latent Growth Curve modeling showed that particularly children who showed signs of shyness benefitted from parental affection in terms of the development of subsequent prosocial behavior. Fathers’ behavioral control, in turn, was found to predict a low level of prosocial behavior among shy children. Among children who were not shy parents’ affection and behavioral control did not play a role in the development of prosocial behaviors. Overall, the results supported the differential susceptibility model by suggesting that particularly shy children are prone to the parental impacts, either positive or negative.

The second article is sent for publication and is under review in *Family Process Journal* and the third article will be sent for publication in early December. Once again I would like to greatly appreciate Alli Paasikivi foundation for supporting my PhD studies.

Sincerely

Maryam Zarra-Nezhad