

The background of the slide is a panoramic view of Florence, Italy, featuring the large red-tiled dome of the Florence Cathedral (Santa Maria del Fiore) on the right, the Campanile di Giotto in the center, and the city's terracotta-roofed buildings in the foreground. The sky is a mix of orange and blue, suggesting a sunset or sunrise.

Is the TCI a valid method of assessing attachment?

Comparing the TCI to the PAA.

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Study Aim

- To test the validity of a new assessment of attachment (TCI) by comparing it against the well validated Pre-school assessment of attachment (PAA)

Introduction

- In clinical practice, assessments of preschooler's attachment to their parents/caregivers are more often than not based on scientifically unreliable information such as the assessor's intuition.

Why was a new procedure needed?

- Preschool assessment of Attachment (PAA) is expensive to administer (time, personnel and venue) & therefore rarely used.
- TCI can be undertaken anywhere & only takes five minutes to administer, so if validated, has the potential to be an important contribution to the tool box of practitioners.

Why was a new Toddler CARE-Index needed?

- Adding a frustration task to the old Toddler CARE-Index (3 minute play interaction) to make the new TCI (5 minute procedure- made up of 3 minutes play, 1 minute frustration & 1 minute repair) has introduced stress to a procedure that was previously low stress and therefore of limited utility.

Instructions for the parent

- You should begin by playing with your child as you usually would. Then when you hear the camera person cough, try to frustrate your child. If he is interested in a toy, you might take it away. You might say that the play is over, but not offer anything else to do. If you are playing a game, you might break the rules. If he needs help, you might refuse to give it. You should do something that is uncooperative and frustrates him.
- After a minute, the camera person will cough again and you can return to play in a way that makes your child comfortable again.
- You can return to play sooner if you want to.
- So to summarize, it is play, frustrate, repair and play.

Bonus advantage?

- The addition of the frustration task may have greater relevance to the age group because the focus is on parent-child hierarchy & authority rather than separation

Method

- Over course of 3 years, 31 participants were recruited from a state run nursery in area of high deprivation and need.
- TCI administered in home visit ;
- PAA undertaken in 'laboratory' (Children's Centre)

Coding and Classification

Data collection

- Almost complete
- SSP course participants actively seeking risk status participants to add into sample

Coding

- Partially complete
- Separate groups of reliable coders are coding both procedures ready for analysis

Project plan

Coding and classification

- To be completed early Summer 2018

Analysis & Writing

- Analysis will start as soon as data available
- Paper to be written up by late Summer 2018

DMM gain from the project

- If validated, the TCI (and its underlying DMM theory) is likely to become widely used within child protection and research.
- This will enhance the visibility of the DMM as a theory of relevance for clinical practice.

Additional DMM gain from the project

- The Local Authority who collaborated on the project is adopting the DMM as its theory for practice.
- Further projects are planned as a direct result of the collaboration which will hopefully contribute to the growing body of DMM research

Feedback from the research team

- All of the research team spoke of benefitting through their participation in the project.
- Viewing the procedures in project meetings allowed nursery staff to gain a 'different better informed understanding' of key children.
- Children they had previously worried about became less worrisome and children they hadn't been worried about became worrisome...



Bertinoro, 2008



Cambridge, 2010

To download program materials, click here
<https://www.iasa-dmm.org/iasa-conference/>



Frankfurt, 2012



Miami, 2015