Associations Between Parental Apology Characteristics and Parenting Practices

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Introduction

- Parenting interventions often focus on optimal parenting, but there is limited evidence on how parents apologize when they are wrong[1]
- It is also unclear how parent apology is related to other parenting practices

Research Question

What are the associations between parenting practices and characteristics of parent apology?

Methods

Sample:
200 mothers with children between the ages 7-12.
Written Apology Vignette

Proclivity to Apologize Measure[2]:
M=52.7, SD=9.98

Egna Minnen Betriiffande Upp-fostran Questionnaire[3]:
Overprotection: M=27.7, SD=8.36
Rejection: M=14.6, SD=8.09
Warmth: M=33.5, SD=15.4
Anxious: M=22.6, SD=3.70

Mothers who demonstrated an *anxious* parenting style were *less willing to apologize* to their child.

Results

Figure 1

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Results

- Anxious rearing has a significant negative correlation with proclivity to apologize (r=-0.228, p=0.002)
- Parental warmth, overprotective behaviors, and rejection have no significant correlation with maternal proclivity to apologize (ps>.05)
- The presence of love and gratitude has no significant relationship with proclivity to apologize and parental characteristics.

Discussion

These finding shows that mothers who have an anxious parenting style are less willing to apologize. These results may be due to fear of failure and admitting when they're wrong with their child[4]. Parents with anxious styling may benefit from explicit coaching around benefits of apologizing

References

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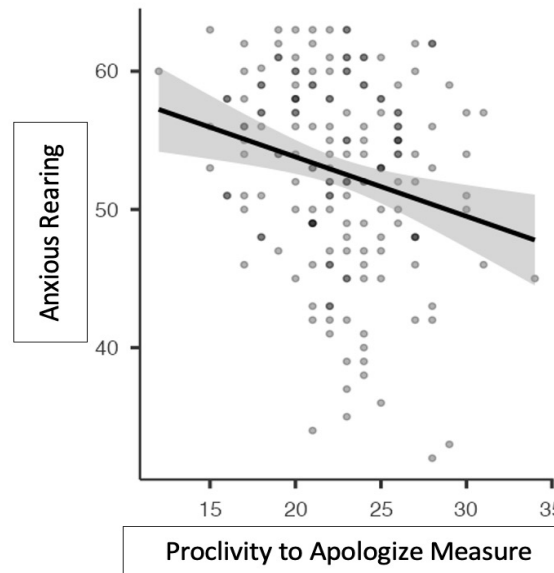4. Lee, M. A., Schoppe-Sullivan, S. J., & Kamp Dush, C. M. (2012). Parenting Perfectionism and Parental Adjustment. *Personality and individual differences, 52*(3), 454–457. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.paid.2011.10.047