

Family Process Autism Spectrum Disorders

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Area of research: Family Processes in Parent-Adolescent Relations

Family processes

- Theoretical perspective
 - Ecological systems
 - Attachment schema across the lifespan
 - Affective and cognitive mediation
- Parenting dimensions
 - Cohesion, support, closeness, warmth, acceptance
 - Hostility, inconsistency, harshness
 - Structure, organization
- Adolescent Development
 - Identity processes
 - Peer relations
 - Intimacy & Sexuality

Findings to date: Influences on Adolescent Development

- Broad influence of cohesion, support, warmth
- Hostility and aggression
- Relative unimportance of family structure
- Lack of importance of social location indicators
- Importance of adolescent intra-personal mediators

Anxiety

Self-regulation

Functional attribution patterns

Ways research can contribute

- Family as enduring and pervasive influence in moderating the influence of ASD on outcomes
- Situating ASD within normative developmental processes
- Dimensions of parenting and key dimensions of development, particularly adolescent development

Current working relationships and resources

- Workforce Development – Commonwealth of Virginia
 - Career coaches program 100+
 - Students served: 11,000+
- Family Life Project - Family Observational Data
- National Educational Longitudinal Survey
- Adolescent Health Dataset

Collaborations and resources needed

- Project needing parenting or family focus
- ASD and typical developing sample
- Project needing conceptualization and measurement expertise in family, parenting, or adolescent development
- Personnel funding for equivalent percent time