

The dance of attachment: linking motor characteristics with attachment and behavioural measures of the dyad mother-child with visual impairment

Monday, September 23, 2024 6:05 PM (15 minutes)

Introduction: Studying attachment development in children with visual impairment (VI) is fundamental to investigating the associations of the attachment style with the maturation of socioemotional skills and the emergence of psychological conditions.

Methods: Four children with VI (38.5 ± 33.9 months old) played while parents sat in one corner of the set-up. We used the Vicon Motion Tracking System to quantify the mean distances between parents and children during playground exploration. Parents completed two questionnaires: the Child Behaviour Checklist (CBCL) and the Adult Attachment Questionnaire (ASQ).

Results: Concerning the ASQ, we found a high positive correlation between the mean distance and anxious ambivalent ($r=0.92$) style of attachment; conversely, we found a high negative correlation between the mean distance and the secure style ($r=-0.62$), both not significant. Concerning the CBCL, we highlight a high negative and significant correlation between the mean distance and the subscales related to sleep problems ($r=-0.96$, $p=0.03$). Conversely, we found a moderate negative correlation between mean distance and the somatic complaints ($r=-0.51$) and the withdraw subscales ($r=-0.55$), which were not significant.

Conclusion: Our preliminary results suggest an interesting link between motor characteristics, the attachment style of the mothers, and some behavioural characteristics of children with VI. Our ecological set up also resembled children every-day environment, allowing a more realistic data collection and thus, more unbiased results. This enabled us to investigate motor characteristics that represents an indirect measure of cognitive, emotional, and relational aspects.

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