Child Gender and Parental Nurturance in Children with and without an NDC
Danielle Shapiro, PhD
January, 2013
Background

- Socialization processes identified in TD populations do not always generalize to families with children with NDC’s
  - Parents of children with NDC’s play different roles in facilitating children’s social relationships (Cunningham et al., 2009)

- Gender is a “linchpin” in family roles and processes

- Parenting behaviors vary by child gender
  - Parents are more nurturing towards girls
  - Children with an NDC may be “de-gendered” in ways that disrupt this pattern
Current Study

- 109 children between ages of 6-12
  - 49 with an NDC (28 male)
  - 60 TD (30 male)
- Of those with an NDC, 41 diagnosed with CP and 7 with spina bifida
  - All with an IQ of at least 70
- Parental nurturance measured using the Parenting Dimensions Inventory
  - 6 items (alpha = .80)
Results

![Graph showing PDI Nurturance Z Score for Female and Male]

- For Female: TD (1,107) = 4.56, \( p < .05 \)
Results

PDI Nurturance Z Score

TD

NDC

Female

Male
**Results**

- $F(1,107) = 4.56, p < .05$

---

**TD**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Male</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NDC**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Male</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>-0.2</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Implications**

- Fundamental family processes, like gender norms, may function differently in families with a child with an NDC.
  - And particularly so if the child is female.

- Clinicians and researchers should avoid wholesale generalization of models developed on TD children to children with NDC’s.

- More work is needed to delineate the function of gender in families with a child with an NDC.
Thank you!

Contact: dnshap@umich.edu