The Baby Care Questionnaire (BCQ) is a new measure of parenting principles and practices in three specific contexts—sleeping, feeding, and soothing. The BCQ measures the parenting principles structure and attunement.

### Hypothesis
Caregiver’s cognitions about child development and attributions about caregiving failures would be related to their principles about caregiving.

### Measures
- **Baby Care Questionnaire (BCQ):** assesses parent’s support of structure and attunement, as well as parenting practices, such as breastfeeding.
- **Concepts of Development Questionnaire (CODQ):** assesses the level of complexity that parents cognize about child development (Sameroff & Feil, 1985)
- **Parent Attribution Test (PAT):** assesses parent’s perceived causes of caregiving failure (Bugental, Johnston, New & Silvester, 1998)

### Results

**Study 1: BCQ & PAT**
Participants: 48 mothers of infants under 18 months
- **Structure:** positively related with child control over failure, $r = .35$, $p < .013$
- **Attunement:** negatively related with child control over failure, $r = -.47$, $p < .013$
- Structure and attunement not related to adult control over failure, $r = -.14$; $r = .14$

**Study 2: BCQ & CODQ**
Participants: 77 mothers of newborn infants
- **Structure:** not related to complexity of thought, $r = -.15$, $p > .025$
- **Attunement:** positively related with complexity, $r = .43$, $p < .025$

### Main variables
#### Parenting principles
- **Structure:** support of routines and regularity
- **Attunement:** trust and use of infant’s cues and support of close physical contact

#### Parenting cognitions
- **Complexity (CODQ):** complexity of mother’s cognitions about child development
- **Child control over failure (CCF) (PAT):** perceived importance of the child in caregiving failures
- **Adult control over failure (ACF) (PAT):** perceived importance of the adult in caregiving failures

### Conclusions
- **Structure**
  - Related to assigning responsibility to the child for caregiving failures
  - Not related to complexity of thought
- **Attunement**
  - Related to assigning little responsibility to child for caregiving failures
  - Related to ability to think complexly about child development

### Implications
- Both parenting principles are related to attributions about caregiving failures
- Only attunement is related to complexity of cognitions about development
- Cannot be certain of the causal direction of these relations

### Future work
- Longitudinal study to examine causal direction of relations between principles and cognitions
- Importance of these principles and cognitions on child outcomes and mother-infant interactions
  - **Attunement and attention-directing** (board 32, poster session 10, 9th June)
  - **Structure and attention-directing in maternal caregiving** (board 33, poster session 10, 9th June)