

INPLASY PROTOCOL

To cite: Moreira et al. A scoping review of the relationship between parental mentalization and children's mental health. Inplasy protocol 202320050. doi: 10.37766/inplasy2023.2.0050

Received: 12 February 2023

Published: 12 February 2023

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Support: Not applicable.

Review Stage at time of this submission: Data analysis.

Conflicts of interest:
None declared.

A scoping review of the relationship between parental mentalization and children's mental health

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Review question / Objective: How is the association between parental mentalization and child's mental health? Is parental mentalization a protective factor against children's psychopathology? Does it play a moderating role on the transgenerational transmission of psychopathology? **P** - Children ages 0-12 years and their caregivers. **I** - Caregivers - PRF-Q or other tests for mentalization, Children - CBLC or other tests for child mental health. **C** - Evaluate the association of parental mentalization on the child's mental health. **O** - Analysis of whether or not an effect was observed based on all measurements of effects used in included studies. **S** - All types of empirical quantitative studies.

Condition being studied: In the preamble to its constitution, the World Health Organization defines the Mental Health as "a state of well-being in which each individual is aware of their own potential, can cope with the normal stresses of life, can work independently productive and fruitful and is able to contribute to their community" (WHO, 2014).

INPLASY registration number: This protocol was registered with the International Platform of Registered Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis Protocols (INPLASY) on 12 February 2023 and was last updated on 50 February 2023 (registration number INPLASY202320050).

INTRODUCTION

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transmission of psychopathology? **P** - Children ages 0-12 years and their caregivers. **I** - Caregivers - PRF-Q or other tests for mentalization, Children - CBLC or other tests for child mental health. **C** - Evaluate the association of parental mentalization on the child's mental health. **O** - Analysis of whether or not an effect

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Rationale: Several studies have focused on mentalization capacity as a possible protective factor for mental health (Debbané et al., 2016; Ostler et al., 2010). Empirical evidence suggests that enjoying emotional understanding results in a series of positive developmental consequences (Karstad et al., 2015). This scoping review will examine the existing literature about the association between parental mentalization and children's mental health and synthesize the accumulating evidence.

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METHODS

Search strategy: (("mentaliz*" OR "reflective function*" OR "social cognition" OR "theory of mind" OR "ToM" OR "emotional intelligen*" OR "mindminded*" OR "empath*") AND ("mental health" OR "well being" OR "well-being" OR "wellbeing" OR "happiness" OR "quality of life" OR "functioning" OR "psychological adjustment" OR "impairment" OR "distress" OR "psychopathology" OR "mental disorder*" OR "mental illness" OR "psychiatric disorder" OR "internali*" OR "externali*" OR "psychopathologic* symptom*" OR "psychological symptom*" OR "psychiatric symptom*" OR "emotional symptom*" OR "behaviour* symptom*" OR "behavior* symptom*") AND ("parent*" OR "father*" OR "mother*" OR "carer*" OR "caregiv*" OR "famil*" OR "offspring" OR "attachment figure" OR "home" OR "household") AND ("child*" OR "infan*" OR "toddler*" OR "kid" OR "kids" OR "kindergar*" OR "school*" OR "preschool*"))).

Participant or population: Not applicable.

Intervention: To be determined.

Comparator: Not applicable.

Study designs to be included: All types of empirical quantitative studies will be included.

Eligibility criteria: The following inclusion criteria have been defined: Published in English or Spanish; All publication years. Exclusion criteria: Case studies and review articles; Studies containing data from foster families.

Information sources: PsycINFO, PubMed, Web of Science, Scopus, Cochrane Library, PROSPERO, Google Scholar, Contact with authors.

Main outcome(s): To be determined.

Additional outcome(s): To be determined.

Data management: From the searches carried out in the databases, the references obtained have been imported into the Mendeley bibliographic manager. Once duplicates have been removed and abstracts reviewed, the review articles are being worked on in a data extraction table on Google drive.

Quality assessment / Risk of bias analysis: Due to the broad scope and the heterogeneous nature of the primary studies that may be included in this review, a scoping review will be performed instead of a systematic review. Accordingly, no assessment of risk bias will be performed.

Strategy of data synthesis: The objective will be to make a formal narrative synthesis of the following associations:

- The association between parental mentalization and children's mental health.
- The association between parental mentalization and children's psychopathology.
- The association between parental psychopathology, children's

psychopathology, and parental mentalization.

For this review, narrative synthesis is planned and will be done according to the “Guidance on the conduct of narrative synthesis in systematic reviews?” (Popay et al., 2006). Studies will be grouped based on the parent’s construct (i.e. Mentalization, Reflective Functioning, etc.), the children’s construct (i.e. Child Wellbeing, Child Functioning, Child Psychopathology), age groups, intervention (if conducted) and measures of variables. Assessment will be provided regarding the direction and size of the overall effect. Dealing with missing data: where data is missing or incomplete, the researcher will contact study authors to obtain this where possible. Some uncertainties will be resolved by discussion between the authors.

Subgroup analysis: To be determined.

Sensitivity analysis: Not applicable.

Language restriction: Published in English or Spanish.

Country(ies) involved: Spain.

Keywords: Child Mental Health, Mentalization, Parental Mentalization.

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