Evaluated the relation between social support, family functioning and social capital on adolescent mothers’ and fathers’ parental sense of competence. Participants were expectant mothers and fathers ages 14-21 (n = 231). Parenting sense of competence was measured at 6 months postpartum using the 16-item PSOC, which was adapted to include age appropriate wording for the sample population. Perceived social support and family functioning during pregnancy were related to increased parental sense of competence on the PSOC.

Investigated the link between parenting self-efficacy, child weight outcomes, and infant negative reactivity and self-regulation. 110 mother-infant dyads participated in the study. At 3 weeks of age infants were assessed, and mothers completed a number of self-report measures, including the PSOC. Mother-infant dyads were assessed again at 16 weeks and 1 year. A follow-up was conducted with a subsample of subjects (n=75) at age 3 years. Findings indicated that mothers’ Efficacy significantly moderated the link between negative child reactivity and weight outcomes, such that high levels of negative reactivity predicted increased weight gain in children with mothers reporting low Efficacy.

Parenting self-esteem, locus of control, and disciplinary styles in a community sample of mothers with varying levels of ADHD symptoms were investigated. The PSOC Satisfaction and Efficacy scales were used. Women with high levels of ADHD symptoms reported more occupational and psychiatric problems than women with lower levels of ADHD symptoms. PSOC Efficacy was lower in women high in ADHD, while Satisfaction (referred to as dissatisfaction in this study) was higher
compared to women low in ADHD. Women with ADHD also reported lower parenting self-esteem, a more external parenting locus of control, and less effective disciplinary styles.


This article reports findings from a process and impact study of a residential early parenting centre programme in Australia for parents with young children under the age of three, referred from health and child protection services. Multiple sources of data were used from interviews, focus groups, direct observations, observer notes and a parenting sense of competence questionnaire. Parents’ perceptions of parent competence improved significantly between admission and discharge for participating families.


Evaluated the efficacy of the Triple P-Positive Parenting Program by randomly assigning 150 couples with children aged between 2 and 12 years to a Group Triple P program, a marital distress prevention program and a non-treated control group over a time-span of 1 year. Along with other measures, a Swiss version of the PSOC was used to evaluate the impact of the interventions. Triple P produced better improvements for the mothers’ total score on the PSOC than either control or marital groups.


Two variants of a the Triple P behavioral family intervention (BFI) program were compared using 87 preschoolers with co-occurring disruptive behavior and attention/hyperactive difficulties. Families were randomly assigned to enhanced BFI (EBFI), standard BFI (SBFI), or a waitlist (WL). The PSOC was used to determine parental Satisfaction and Efficacy. At post intervention, mothers in the EBFI and SBFI conditions reported significantly higher levels of Satisfaction and Efficacy and
lower levels of dysfunctional parenting practices than the mothers in the WL condition.

**Borelli, J. L., Goshin, L., Joestl, S., Clark, J., & Byrne, M. W. (2010).**

Investigated attachment classifications in a sample of pregnant women incarcerated in a state prison with a nursery program. Analyses were based on 69 women serving sentences for felony crimes who were followed from the birth of their child to completion of the prison nursery co-residence. They completed the Adult Attachment Interview shortly after entering the program and scales measuring depression, perceived parenting competency, and social support at study entry and program completion. Parenting competency was assessed using the Efficacy scale of the PSOC (called Perceived Competency in Knowledge in this study). Preoccupied mothers reported higher levels of depressive symptoms, lower parenting Efficacy, and lower satisfaction with social support at the conclusion of the nursery program.


This study examined the impact of parenting efficacy and assistance with childcare on the likelihood of child out-of-home placement and custody status among 175 mothers with diagnosed dual substance and mental health disorder and in treatment for substance dependence. Greater parenting efficacy was associated with lower likelihood of having at least one child in out-of-home placement and lower likelihood of loss of child custody. Parenting efficacy mediated the relationship between parenting support and likelihood of out-of-home placement and between parenting support and likelihood of custody loss.


Although evidence suggests deployment-related stress impacts parenting, few measures of parenting competency have been validated in returning post-9/11 veterans. 178 treatment-seeking veterans completed measures including the 16-item
We examined the psychometrics and factor structure of the PSOC. According to a proposed clinical cut-off, 10% of our clinical sample of veterans exhibited low self-confidence in parenting. A confirmatory factor analysis of the 2-factor structure introducing correlated error terms between items 3 and 9, and between items 10 and 11, revealed to be a satisfactory fit to the data. In addition, the PSOC exhibited good convergent validity with measures of parental distress and family functioning, very good temporal stability, and excellent internal consistency. The PSOC exhibited satisfactory psychometric properties in treatment-seeking veterans.


The purpose of this study was to develop an integrative model linking adult attachment insecurities, dyadic adjustment, and parenting self-esteem. The study involved 118 pairs (236 subjects) of heterosexual parents of a firstborn child aged 0 to 6 years. They were administered the Experiences in Close Relationships – Revised (ECR-R) questionnaire, the Dyadic Adjustment Scale (DAS), and the Parenting Sense of Competence Scale (PSOC). Findings showed that dyadic adjustment mediates the negative influence on parenting self-efficacy of both attachment anxiety and attachment avoidance. Parenting satisfaction is positively influenced by parenting self-efficacy and negatively affected by child’s age.


Investigated the relation between parental self-efficacy and school-refusal. The sample consisted of one group of school-refusing adolescents (n = 60) and one group of school-attending adolescents (n = 46) age 12-17 years, and their parent. Participants completed measures of psychopathology, family functioning, and parents completed the 17-item PSOC. Parents of school-attending adolescents had significantly higher PSOC scores than parents of school-refusing adolescents. A logistic regression found that parental Efficacy was a predictor of school-refusal. However, when parent and adolescent depression and family dysfunction were controlled, Efficacy was no longer a significant predictor.

The effectiveness of a parenting program was examined with an Australian sample testing improved parent knowledge, parental sense of competence, and child behavior. 116 parents and their children were randomly assigned to three conditions: a two-session group based intervention, a two-session self-administered individual intervention, or to a waitlist control group. Across both treatment modalities results reveal a significant increase in the PSOC (on both the Satisfaction and Efficacy scales), and a reduction in child problem behavior. Improvements were maintained at 3-months follow-up.


Investigated the relation between parental fatigue and parental self efficacy in early parenthood. Mothers (n = 1003) and fathers (n = 140) with at least one child between 0-4 years of age participated. Parents completed the 16-item PSOC, the Fatigue Assessment Scale (FAS), and measures of parenting warmth and hostility. Path analysis showed that the relation between fatigue parenting warmth and hostility was fully mediated by parental Efficacy, as measured by the PSOC.


Examined the relations between PSOC Efficacy and parenting behaviours in mothers from diverse ethnic backgrounds in South Korea. 258 mothers with a 5-36 month old child participated. Mothers completed self-report measures of their parenting behaviours, as well as the Korean version of the PSOC. Analyses revealed no significant difference of Efficacy across maternal ethnicity. However, there was a positive correlation between Efficacy and maternal health-promoting behaviors, regardless of mothers’ ethnic background.


Investigated crossover effects of two types of work-family conflict, relations of these conflicts' to parenting Efficacy and perceived quality of parent-child interaction, and the contribution of attributions of importance to life roles to variance in these two
parental outcomes. 60 married couples with at least one child in the age range of 2 to 4 years participated and completed a Hebrew version of the 6-item PSOC Efficacy scale. Both types of work-family conflict were negatively correlated with parenting Efficacy and perceived quality of the parent-child interaction. Efficacy was associated with the higher value attributed to that role and to the dual role of working parent, and with a stronger sense of commitment to the parenting and dual roles.


58 mother and infants participating in two infant-mother psychotherapeutic interventions (Watch, Wait, and Wonder and Psychodynamic Psychotherapy) and were followed for 6 months. The PSOC was administered as part of a battery of measures used to determine maternal perceptions of parenting. A significant main effect for time indicated increased Efficacy for both treatment groups from the end of treatment to follow-up. Changes in Satisfaction at the end of the treatment were maintained for mothers in both groups.


Examined parenting efficacy beliefs as correlates of mothers’ competence in parenting toddlers and as predictors of toddlers’ behavior and development. 68 predominantly middle-class mother-toddler dyads participated. Mothers completed questionnaires, toddlers were administered the Bayley Scales of Infant Development, and each dyad participated in the Crowell Procedure. To assess domain-general parenting self-efficacy, the Efficacy scale of the PSOC was used. Parenting Efficacy beliefs tended to be quite high for the sample, and the PSOC was not a good predictor of toddler developmental status.


Examined the main and interactive effects of cumulative risk and child temperament on teacher ratings of social competence and observer ratings of peer play in a sample of Head Start preschoolers. 113 preschoolers (averaged 60.5 months of age), their caregivers (averaged 29.1 years of age), and their teachers participated. The 7-item Efficacy scale of the PSOC was employed as one part of a cumulative risk index.
which was significantly and negatively related to child social competence. The risk index also interacted with child temperament in predicting social competence.


Evaluated the efficacy of the Parenting Wisely program, an internet facilitated parenting skills intervention. Parents (n=144) were assigned to one of four different format deliveries: parent and adolescent online format, parents only intensive workshop, parents only 5-week group, parent and adolescent 5-week group. Program format outcomes were assessed post-study. Participants completed measures assessing family, adolescent, and parent variables, including the PSOC. Findings indicated that the parents only 5-week group made the most significant gains of all four groups, as evidenced by their improvement on parent variables, such as the PSOC.


Examined the psychometric properties of the Karitane Parenting Confidence Scale (KPCS), a new 15-item measure of task specific perceived parental self-efficacy. A control group and three clinical groups with various parenting problems comprising 187 mothers with infants younger than 12 months of age were recruited. PSOC Efficacy and Satisfaction scales were used to establish convergent validity with the KPCS. Results indicated that the KPCS total scores were significantly and positively correlated with the Efficacy and Satisfaction scales of the PSOC.


Assessed 129 4-year-olds who were at risk for attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), oppositional defiant disorder (ODD), both ADHD and ODD, or with no problems. Mothers of children with ODD symptoms reported lower PSOC scores than did those without ODD symptoms. Mothers of children with ADHD/ODD symptoms felt marginally less competent than did those with ADHD alone. Mothers of children in the no problem subgroup felt more competent than did the mothers in the ADHD, and the ADHD/ODD subgroups.

The efficacy of the New Forest Parenting Programme Self-help, a training program for parents of children with ADHD, was evaluated. Participants (n=43) were randomly assigned to the training program (n=24) or a waitlist control group (n=19). Parents completed pre- and post-study measures of child ADHD symptoms, and parent variables, including the PSOC. Results found a significant effect of parent training on PSOC total scores.


Assessed the effects of Triple P Level 4 interventions on parenting styles and parental competence in 19 studies. A total of 8 studies using the PSOC were selected to assess the impact of Triple P on parenting competence. Findings indicated that total PSOC scores improved at post-assessment (moderate effects), improved further at follow-up assessment (large effect), and were maintained 1 year later (moderate effect). Additional meta-analyses showed that studies with more than 68.3% boys had significantly greater long-term effects of Triple P on parenting styles and parental competence measured with the PSOC.


Investigated parental characteristics and their role in primary care pediatricians’ (PCP) identification of child behaviour problems (PID) in a sample of (n=831) parents. The PSOC Efficacy scale was used. Children with parents who endorsed high levels of Efficacy were less likely to be identified by their PCP as requiring help for PID. However, parents who had low Efficacy scores were more likely to seek help from the PCP for their child’s PID.


Investigated an occupational therapy contextual intervention designed to increase daily participation in children with autism spectrum disorders and improve parental competence. Participants (n= 20) received 10 intervention sessions with an occupational therapist over a period of 12-15 weeks. The PSOC Efficacy and Satisfaction scales were used. Efficacy significantly improvement from pre- to post-treatment.


Examined the relationship between fatigue, parenting self-efficacy, and parenting satisfaction with parenting stress as the mediating factor in a sample of (n=1022) mothers of children (aged 0-6 years). Participants completed a series of measures, including the PSOC Efficacy and Satisfaction scales. The results indicated that stress was the mediating factor between fatigue, Efficacy, and Satisfaction, such that a high level of fatigue is associated with increased stress and decreased levels of Efficacy and Satisfaction.


Examined the efficacy of an integrated cognitive-behavioral parent-training protocol for 6 families of separation-anxious children (7 to 10 years of age) using a multiple baseline design across participants. The PSOC scales were used as parenting process measures to determine treatment response. Results showed that, although the parent-training protocol was largely effective and treatment gains were maintained at 6-month follow-up, only those child participants whose parents experienced clinically significant improvement on parental process measures (i.e., enhanced Efficacy or Satisfaction, reduced stress) achieved high end-state functioning.

Assessed the extent to which a sense of competence and beliefs about parental roles in mothers and fathers influence coparenting and child engagement in triadic interactions during the first 2 years of the child's life. 69 mother–father–infant families, whose sense of competence, beliefs in parental roles, postpartum depression, and marital satisfaction were assessed at 3, 9, and 18 months. Results suggest that (i) predictors of coparenting and child engagement are not the same at each time point; (ii) a sense of competence in mothers is positively linked with coparenting support, whereas in fathers, it is negatively linked with support.


Compared the psychosocial adjustment and the quality of interaction with their infant of mothers and fathers of very low-birthweight infants at two time points in the first year of the infant's life. 61 couples who had an infant weighing less than 1,500 g, born at less than 32 weeks gestation were participated. The Efficacy scale of the PSOC was used. Fathers' reported parenting Efficacy was significantly lower than mothers' at both 3 and 9 months of age.


Evaluated the efficacy of a manualized multimodal treatment program for young externalizing children. Families were assigned randomly to treatment or wait list conditions. The PSOC was completed before treatment and again approximately 5 months later. Relative to the waitlist condition, treatment parents reported statistically and clinically significant reductions in child behavior problems, improved parenting practices (i.e., increased consistency, decreased power assertive techniques), an increased sense of Efficacy, and reduced parenting stress. Results suggest that positive changes in parental attitudes and stress were not driven by participating in treatment groups but by change in child behavior.

Examined mother and child touch patterns in infant feeding disorders. Infants (aged 9-34 months) referred to a community-based clinic were diagnosed with feeding disorders or other primary disorders and were case matched with non-referred controls. Mother-child play and feeding were observed and the home environment was assessed. The PSOC total score was used. Mothers of children with FDs reported the lowest PSOC scores of all groups, but the PSOC did not uniquely predict feeding efficacy.


The provision of maternal-infant body contact during a period of maternal separation was examined for its effects on parent-infant and triadic interactions. 146 3-month-old preterm infants and their parents participated, half of who received skin-to-skin contact (kangaroo care). The PSOC was given before and after treatment. Kangaroo care mothers’ sensitivity increased and intrusiveness decreased. PSOC scores contributed to the prediction of family cohesiveness.


A total of 112 parents of individuals diagnosed with SMS responded to online questionnaires to assess demographic and psychosocial factors, such as perceptions of child health vulnerability, benefit finding, sleep behaviors, anxiety and depression, and the Satisfaction and Efficacy scales of the PSOC in relation caregiver well-being. Among mothers, caregiver well-being was directly related to perceived child health vulnerability, PSOC Satisfaction, and benefit finding. Results further suggest that maternal caregivers who report high levels of anxiety but do not seek counseling fare the worst in terms of well-being. Among fathers, low depression symptoms and greater benefit finding were related to higher levels of caregiver well-being.


Observed changes in first-time mothers’ perceptions of their parenting self-efficacy and social support during the perinatal period. A longitudinal design was used.
Mothers were randomly assigned to either a control group (n=98) or the intervention group (n=96). Mothers completed measures of parenting self-efficacy and social support, including the Chinese version of the PSOC, during pregnancy, 6-week follow-up, and again at 3-month follow-up. Results showed a decline in mothers’ perceptions of social support and parenting self-efficacy during pregnancy until 6 week follow-up. Perceptions of both parenting self-efficacy and social support improved at 3-month follow-up.


This Randomized Controlled Trial (RCT) evaluated the efficacy of an interpersonal-psychotherapy-oriented (IPT) postnatal program for first-time mothers. A community sample of mothers (n = 180) participated. Mothers were randomly assigned to either a psychotherapy intervention or routine postnatal care. Mothers completed measures assessing depressive symptoms, social support and parental competence. The 17-item Chinese version of the PSOC was administered at pre-intervention and 6 weeks following birth. Mothers who received the intervention had lower depressive symptoms, higher sense of competence and social support, when compared to the control group.


Tested the effectiveness of a parenting intervention in reducing child conduct problems. 76 families, children aged 2-9 were randomly assigned to a parenting group or to a wait-list control group. The total PSOC scale was used, and showed significant intervention effects. Examining the two subscales separately, there was an effect on parents’ sense of Efficacy, but not on Satisfaction.


Examined possible mediators of the relation between maternal depressive symptoms and parenting behavior for 96 children with ADHD and their mothers drawn from the
Multimodal Treatment Study of Children with ADHD (MTA). General cognitions (i.e., maternal locus of control and self-esteem) and parenting-specific factors (i.e., maternal parenting Efficacy and parenting stress) were examined as possible mediators. The Efficacy scale of the PSOC was used. When examined individually, maternal self-esteem, parenting Efficacy, and parenting stress each mediated the relation between maternal depression and overreactive parenting. When examined simultaneously, however, a nonsignificant path was found between parenting Efficacy and overreactive parenting.


Examined statistically significant and clinically meaningful effects of behavioural parent training aimed at improving parental functioning in parents of children with ADHD who had previously completed a psychosocial treatment for ADHD. The Efficacy scale of the PSOC was used and showed no significant change pre-post treatment.


This case study examined the effectiveness of a university-based ADHD clinic implementing evidence-based treatment for a Spanish-speaking, Latino family. Father and mother both completed a Spanish version of the Efficacy scale of the PSOC before and after treatment. At the end of treatment, the mother perceived herself as a more efficacious parent, whereas the father reported feeling less efficacious.


Examined the associations between fatigue, well-being, and parenting in a sample of 164 mothers of infants and toddlers (aged 0-4 years) with sleeping difficulties from an early parenting centre. Mothers completed questionnaires assessing demographic variables, parenting Satisfaction and Efficacy (of the PSOC scale), parenting practices, SES, and a number of measures assessing sleep quality in both parents and children. Findings indicated a moderate association between fatigue and parenting Efficacy; high fatigue was associated with low parental Efficacy, and low
Satisfaction. Approximately 71% of mothers reported that fatigue interfered with being the parent they wanted to be.


Examined differences between mothers’ and fathers’ involvement with their children, and whether parental self-efficacy is a mediating factor between parent, child and family factors, and parental involvement. Mothers (n=851) and fathers (n=131) completed a battery of measures, including the PSOC Efficacy and Satisfaction scales. PSOC total scores mediated the relationship between child temperament, parent involvement, and parent well-being.


Intimate partner violence (IPV) victimization and perpetration and power imbalances in parenting partners may result in poor outcomes for parents and children. We investigated the role of IPV, power, and equity in parenting and child outcomes in an urban sample of adolescent parents. 159 male and 182 female parents in a relationship were recruited. Power, equity, and IPV were measured at 6 months post-partum and were used as predictors for parenting and child outcomes 12 months post-partum using general estimating equations. Among other findings, IPV victimization was associated with poor infant temperament and lower parenting competence.


Established the factor structure of the PSOC for mothers and fathers separately, and provided normative data against which at-risk groups can be compared. A non-clinical sample of 586 mothers and 615 fathers in Australia completed the PSOC. Factor analysis produced three acceptable factors (Satisfaction, Efficacy, Interest) that accounted for 47.3% and 50.1% of the variance for mothers and fathers respectively. Mothers reported higher Efficacy than fathers, and fathers reported greater Satisfaction with the parenting role than did mothers.

Observed changes in parenting competence over time in a sample of 25 mothers with children diagnosed with Down syndrome. Mothers completed self-report questionnaires, including the PSOC, at two phases of the study: first, when their child was 4-6 years old and again when their child was 11-15 years old. Mothers’ parenting Satisfaction significantly increased over time, while Efficacy showed no significant change. Results did not differ when compared with a normative sample of mothers with typically developed children.


The goal of the current study was to examine the effect of the Program for the Education and Enrichment of Relational Skills (PEERS®), a 14-week parent-assisted friendship-building program for adolescents with ADHD. Participants included 25 parents of adolescents with ADHD. Measures of parenting stress, parental efficacy, parent-adolescent communication, parent-adolescent involvement, causal attributions for negative social interactions, and family chaos were completed by parents at pre- and post-treatment. Parents demonstrated statistically significant improvements in parenting stress and parent-adolescent communication. Parents also demonstrated reliable change in parenting stress, parent-adolescent communication, parent-adolescent involvement, and family chaos.


Examined the relationship between parental perceptions of child attachment and parent’s own level of emotional attachment to their child, and it’s implication for constructs of parenting in a sample of mothers (n=76) and fathers (n=30) of children with autism spectrum disorders. Constructs of parenting included parenting sense of competence, parenting stress, and parent-rated child functional impairment. The PSOC Efficacy subscale was included. There was a significant positive relationship between parents’ own emotional attachment to their child and parenting sense of competence. However, there was no significant relationship between parents’ perception of their child’s attachment to them and parenting sense of competence.

Evaluated the efficacy of occupational coaching to increase mothers’ and children’s occupational performance and mothers’ parenting self-efficacy. A sample of mothers (n=8), and children aged 5-12 (n=29) were evaluated for changes in occupational performance at four intervals during the study: pre-wait list, pre-intervention, post-intervention, and follow-up. A one-group time-series design was used. Mothers completed the PSOC Efficacy and Satisfaction scales at all four intervals of the study. Mothers’ PSOC total scores significantly improved over the course of the study. However, given the low internal consistency, interpretation of this finding should be considered carefully.


Examined the psychometric and cultural properties of several Spanish versions of parental/family functioning measures commonly used in comprehensive ADHD assessments (i.e., the PSOC Efficacy scale, Alabama Parenting Questionnaire, and Confusion, Hubbub, and Order Scale). Participants included 68 Spanish speaking, Latino parents. The measures were psychometrically sound and significantly related to acculturation as predicted, suggesting that the scales are not only psychometrically valid, but also culturally valid for use with Spanish speaking, Latino families.


Workplace Triple P (WPTP) is a group-based parenting skills training specifically designed to meet the needs of employed parents. A German version of the PSOC Efficacy scale was used and it was hypothesized that reductions in dysfunctional parenting (DP) behavior and increases in parental Efficacy would mediate the stress-reducing effects of WPTP. Results indicated that individual stress level reductions were mediated by decreased levels of DP. Parenting Efficacy also mediated the effects of the treatment, but in an inconsistent manner.

Studied 46 mothers of children with intellectual disabilities. Mothers completed both the Satisfaction and Efficacy scales of the PSOC, as well as measures of child development, family support, parenting stress, and parental locus of control. PSOC scores correlated with parenting stress, and with parental locus of control. In regression analyses, parenting Satisfaction was a strong predictor of parenting stress.


Investigated whether new parents have overly optimistic expectations about parenthood and, if they do, how this influences their adjustment to this role. At 29-39 weeks of pregnancy and at 4 months post-partum, 71 first-time mothers completed the Efficacy scale of the PSOC. There was a significant increase in Efficacy from the prenatal to the postnatal assessment. High Efficacy scores were associated with higher expectation scores. Postnatal Efficacy scores significantly predicted marital adjustment. Unexpectedly, Efficacy scores moderated the relation between expectations and depression such that when Efficacy scores were high, experiences that were less positive than expectations were associated with increased depression, but when Efficacy scores were low, there was no significant relationship between expectancy disconfirmation and depressed mood.


Investigated bias due to participation in a parent-training program for parents of children with externalizing behaviour problems. Parents (n=56) completed measures of child attention and conduct problems, and parenting, including the Self-Efficacy Scale (SEFS) a German adaptation of the PSOC and the Self-efficacy for Parenting Task Index. Both participating and non-participating parents reported a decrease in problem child behaviours. Furthermore, parents who participated in the training...
program significantly increased in their PSOC scores, however, non-participants showed no increase.


Described the outcomes of a behaviorally based parenting intervention to improve infant or toddler care and reduce parental distress. 118 mothers with infants and toddlers were randomly allocated to either intervention or enhanced waitlist–control conditions. Participants completed a group of measures, including the PSOC Satisfaction, Efficacy, and Interest scales that assess parental competence at pre-, post-, and 6-week follow-up. The Interest scale was subsequently deleted given its low reliability and ceiling effect. The intervention group reported significantly higher Efficacy and Satisfaction following their attendance at the program. Furthermore, the intervention maintained its benefits at the 6-week follow-up.


Tested whether multimodal psychosocial intervention (parent training combined with methylphenidate) significantly enhanced the behavior of parents of children with ADHD, compared with methylphenidate alone, or methylphenidate and nonspecific psychosocial treatment (attention control). 103 children with ADHD (ages 7-9) who responded to short-term methylphenidate therapy were randomized to receive either (1) methylphenidate treatment alone; (2) methylphenidate plus psychosocial treatment; or (3) methylphenidate plus attention control. Parents rated their knowledge of parenting principles and negative and positive parenting behavior. The PSOC was completed by both fathers and mothers. Mothers’ and fathers’ Satisfaction and Efficacy scores yielded no significant advantage for M + MTP over the other two groups (M and M + ACT). Mothers’ ratings of Satisfaction and Efficacy improved across all treatments, while fathers’ ratings showed no time effect.

We examined the associations between parenting self-efficacy, parent depressive symptoms, and preschool child behaviors that support healthy growth. We performed a cross-sectional analysis of baseline data from a randomized controlled trial. Parenting self-efficacy was measured using a 5-item version of the Parenting Sense of Competence (PSOC-5) scale (α= 0.8). Parent depressive symptoms were also measured. Child outcomes included factors such as diet and physical activity. Parenting self-efficacy was negatively correlated with depressive symptoms. In adjusted models, higher parenting self-efficacy was associated with duration of child’s sleep and fewer meals eaten in front of a TV. There was a significant interaction of parenting self-efficacy and parental depressive symptoms on child sleep duration. Parenting self-efficacy and depressive symptoms were not significantly associated with child physical activity or child diet.


Examined the link between parental beliefs and child separation anxiety in children (n=94) with separation anxiety disorder (SAD), a clinical control group (n=33) of children with social anxiety, and a healthy control group of children (n=44). Parents completed measures of child and parent psychopathology, and parental beliefs, including both scales of the PSOC. Findings indicated a significant positive association between child anxiety and parents’ dysfunctional beliefs about parental self-efficacy and child anxiety. Additionally, results showed that mothers of children belonging to the SAD group had lower parental self-efficacy than parents from either the clinical control or healthy control group.


181 first-time, adolescent African American mothers were recruited to examine the relationships among resiliency factors (maturity, self-esteem, and mother-grandma relationships) measured shortly after delivery and maternal parenting behavior and attitudes measured at 6 months. Mothers who had completed more schooling reported
higher levels of parenting Satisfaction on the PSOC and mothers with higher levels of self-esteem at baseline felt more satisfied as parents at 6 months.

Predictors of PSOC Satisfaction and Efficacy were examined in a sample of 102 mothers (aged 22-46 yrs) of children who disclosed sexual abuse within the previous 12 mo. Satisfaction was predicted by conduct behavior problems exhibited by the child, social support from friends and the use of approach coping strategies. Efficacy was predicted by age of the child and conduct and sexual behavior problems exhibited by the child. Maternal history of child sexual abuse was not related to PSOC scores.

Applied a model of parenting stress to mothers of adults with intellectual disabilities. Of particular interest were the parental cognitions of parenting self-esteem and parental locus of control. Face-to face interviews were administered with 44 mothers of adults with ID. They completed the Vineland Adaptive and Maladaptive Behaviour Scale, the Family Support Scale, the PSOC Efficacy and Satisfaction scales, a shortened version of the Parental Locus of Control Scale and the Parenting Stress Index. PSOC Satisfaction mediated the relationships between adaptive behavior and parenting stress and between family support and parenting stress.

Examined the relationship between aspects of the parenting environment and children’s conduct problems and anxious symptoms among socioeconomically comparable samples of African American and European American mothers and their kindergarten children. The PSOC was read aloud to mothers’ by a trained female interviewer. Ethnic differences were found in the relationship between maternal parenting Efficacy and child anxiety, and between parental hostile control and child conduct problems.

Examined ethnic, socioeconomic, and contextual predictors of parenting and family socialization practices among African American and European American families. 103 mothers and their children were interviewed when the children were in kindergarten, and 83.5% were interviewed again in fourth grade. The PSOC Efficacy scale was used. Results indicated several ethnicity effects on the Efficacy scale, e.g., African American mothers reported more Efficacy than European American parents.


Examined the effects of prenatal stress and parenting stress and associations with 1) adolescent maternal adjustment and 2) post-partum emotional distress. 154 pregnant adolescents were interviewed 4 times between their 3rd trimester and 16 months post-partum. Adolescents with high prenatal stress and high parenting stress had the lowest scores on the PSOC and were significantly different from adolescents with either only high prenatal stress or high parenting stress, or with low prenatal and low parenting stress.


Using a subsample of 105 children (aged 7-10 yrs) and their parents (100 mothers, 57 fathers) from the Multimodal Treatment Study of Children with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) (MTA), the value of parents' baseline cognitions as predictors of children's treatment outcome at 14 mo was examined. Measures of parents' cognitions about themselves (PSOC scores), their ADHD children, and their parenting, as well as a self-report measure of dysfunctional discipline were included. Both mothers' and fathers' self-reported use of dysfunctional discipline predicted worse child treatment outcome. Low self-esteem in mothers, low PSOC Efficacy in fathers, and fathers' attributions of noncompliance to their ADHD child's insufficient effort and bad mood also were associated with worse child treatment outcome. All of these predictive relations were obtained even after treatment effects had been taken
Secondary analyses indicated that mothers had a more external locus of control, lower self-esteem, lower Efficacy, and a greater tendency to attribute noncompliance to their ADHD child's bad mood than did fathers.


Evaluated the wide-scale implementation of the Signposts for Building Better Behaviour program. A total of 2,119 parents and caregivers participated in the program over an 18-month period. Along with other measures, the PSOC Efficacy and Satisfaction scales were employed. Following the program, participants reported they were more satisfied with managing their child. For mothers, the Signposts program had a broad range of positive impacts on both child- and parent-related measures, with the greatest impact on Efficacy, Satisfaction, and reducing daily hassles in parenting. The same breadth of positive outcomes applied for fathers, with the greatest impact being on Efficacy.


This study aimed to investigate potential reciprocal relationships between parent and adolescent internalizing symptoms. 177 adolescents ages 14 to 18 years and their parents (172 mothers, 124 fathers) completed measures of depressive and anxiety symptoms at two time points, 6 months apart. Results supported reciprocity between maternal and adolescent internalizing symptoms but not between paternal and adolescent internalizing symptoms. In addition, the relationship between maternal symptoms and later adolescent symptoms was partially mediated by PSOC Satisfaction and Efficacy scales.


Evaluated and compared the psychometric properties of 25 measures of parenting, including the PSOC. Measures were compared according to multiple categories such as administration type, norming data, respondent type as well as 10 psychometric properties including content validity, predictive validity, and internal consistency. Of
the 25 measures evaluated only 5 had acceptable psychometrics in 7 or more of the 10 total categories. The PSOC had 3-4 acceptable psychometric properties. The findings from this study bring attention to the significant disparity in the psychometric strength of some commonly used parenting measures.


Compared parenting characteristics and parent-child relationships in 102 mothers with a child with an atopic disease (e.g. dermatitis, asthma, and rhinitis) and 133 mothers with a child without an atopic disease. Mothers completed measures of parent cognitions, including the Korean PSOC, maternal sensitivity, and relationship quality. Mothers with a child with a severe atopic disease reported lower parental self competence, less affection towards their child, and external locus of control.


Examined the psychometric properties and factor structure of a Japanese translation of the Parenting Scale. A community sample of 529 mothers with children from 4 to 8 years old completed the Japanese translation of the Parenting Scale. An exploratory factor analysis identified two factors labeled “Over-reactivity” (10-items) and “Laxness” (8-items), which closely resembled two of the factor analyses, using data from a clinical sample (N=167). The factors were significantly correlated with measures of child behavior, with mothers’ Efficacy, and with mothers’ general health and mental health.


170 mothers completed a 10-item self-report questionnaire created to assess perceived energy for parenting. To examine the convergent and discriminant validity of PEP, mothers also completed the PSOC Efficacy and Satisfaction scales, along with other measures of physical activity, exercise, mood, and self-esteem. Results indicated that PEP uniquely contributed to predicting Efficacy and Satisfaction.

Examined the relation between parental self-efficacy and child impairment with parents’ views of child ADHD treatments. Participants (n = 95) completed measures of acceptability and effectiveness of medication, behavioural, and combined treatments for child ADHD, as well as child impairment, and the PSOC. Mothers with greater parental self-efficacy viewed behavioural ADHD treatments as most effective.


A quasi-experimental design was used to allocate 439 young families in pediatric clinical care settings to intervention or usual care conditions. Within the intervention group, enrollees were randomly assigned to receive Healthy Steps (HS; postnatal provision of services) or PrePare + HS services (pre and postnatal services). Early outcomes were assessed by telephone surveys at 1 week and 3 months postpartum. PSOC scores did not differ between treatment groups.


Mothers’ parenting Efficacy and attributions for child ADHD behaviors as predictors of experiences with behavioral treatment were investigated. Participants were 101 mothers of 5- to 10-year-old children (82% male) with ADHD. Attributions of child ADHD behavior as more pervasive, enduring, and within the child's control were related to seeing behavioral treatment as more acceptable, but neither attributions nor treatment acceptability predicted treatment experience. However, mothers with higher PSOC Efficacy viewed the behavioral strategies as more likely to be effective, and this pathway significantly predicted positive treatment experience.

This Randomized Controlled Trial (RCT) evaluated the efficacy of an internet-delivered parenting intervention for mothers with a severe mental illness. Mothers (n = 60) with a diagnosis of either (a) Schizophrenia or (b) a Mood disorder, with a child under 18 years old participated. Mothers were randomly assigned to one of two conditions: an internet based parental education program, or an internet based healthy lifestyle program. Mothers completed a number of measures of parenting, including the PSOC. Mothers’ level of parental efficacy, as measured by the PSOC, did not increase between baseline and post-study.


Investigated the factor structure of the Parenting Scale across children from various age groups and races using confirmatory factor analysis. 408 parents of children (ages 2-16 years) presenting to four community-based pediatric practices for routine care participated. To examine the concurrent validity of the instrument, the PSOC Efficacy and Satisfaction scales, along with measures of child behavior problems and parenting practices were administered. Both Efficacy and Satisfaction were significantly associated with the factors of the Parenting Scale.


This study evaluated the psychometric properties of the PSOC in a diverse sample of mother-infant dyads (infants age 2 to 12 months). Mothers (n = 218) completed the 17-item PSOC once during the postpartum period. Analyses revealed good internal consistency (α = .78) and support for construct validity; the PSOC was significantly correlated with the RS-E (r = .51), FSS-Q (r = .56), and negatively correlated with the CES-D (r = -.54). Findings from this study support the use of the PSOC in mother-infant populations.

Evaluated the efficacy of the Family Strengthening Program (FSP), a program aimed at providing early intervention for families in crisis, and whether participation improved a number of family variables, including parental sense of competence, parental mood, and family functioning. Both subscales of the PSOC were used. Families identified as having a child under 18 years of age and at-risk for harm were referred to the study. Participants were assigned to either the Intervention group (n=19) or a waitlist control (n=10). A pre-post repeated measures design was used. Results showed that parents’ parenting sense of competence improved significantly at post-study.


This pilot study investigated the effects of a social-pragmatic intervention on the communication and symbolic abilities of 16 children aged 2-4 with autism. The PSOC was administered as a pre- and post- intervention measure (6 weeks later). No significant relationship was found between change on the PSOC, and changes in communication or symbolic behavior.


Reports on the effects of two types of parent-focused intervention, for parents of children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) aged 2–4 years and within 6 months of diagnosis, on parent’s perceptions of stress and competence. Interventions aimed to decrease parenting stress and increase parenting competence by embedding empirically supported parenting strategies within family routines. Both PSOC Efficacy and Satisfaction were used and results suggest that the professionally supported intervention resulted in reduced child-related parenting stress and increased parenting Efficacy scores relative to the self-directed intervention.

Evaluated the efficacy of the Nobody’s Perfect Parenting Program, a program developed to enhance parenting skills and knowledge among parents that are young, single, geographically or socially isolated, or economically disadvantaged. Participants (n=73) were recruited from the child welfare system and completed a battery of self-report measures assessing types of child interactions, learned resourcefulness, and parenting variables, including the PSOC. Measures were completed at pre- and post-study, and again at 2-month follow up. Results showed that pre-study PSOC scores were the highest for the group that did not finish the program. However, the group that completed the program showed significant gains in PSOC scores at follow-up.


Investigated changes in parenting skills, confidence, and feelings of isolation in parents (N=46) as a result of participation in the Nobody’s Perfect Program (NP). NP is an educational support program for young, single, or low-SES parents with children under the age of 5. The PSOC Satisfaction and Efficacy scales were used. Parents’ Satisfaction scores improved post-study and at follow-up. Male participants had significantly higher relative gains in Efficacy than females. Furthermore, higher attendance was positively associated with relative gains in Efficacy scores.


Examined the relationships between depression and parental sense of competence, and child cognitive outcomes for a sample of 49 adolescent mothers and their young children (Mean age = 9 1/2 months) enrolled in a student parenting program. The Total scale of the PSOC was used. PSOC scores alone did not predict children's cognitive scores; however, the interaction of maternal depression and PSOC significantly predicted children's outcomes. Mothers reporting high levels of depression, who self-reported high levels of parenting competence, had children with higher cognitive development scores. The relationship was not significant for mothers reporting low levels of depression.

Used a family systems perspective to examine how family dynamics within 3-generation households were associated with mothers' satisfaction with father involvement. Participants were low-income African American adolescent mothers and grandmothers recruited at delivery and followed over 6 months. Adolescent mothers completed the PSOC. At 6 months, adolescent mothers again reported on their parenting Efficacy and their satisfaction with father involvement. There was an increase in Efficacy over time. Young mothers were likely to feel more efficacious in their role as parents if they experienced support from those in their proximal environment. When adolescent mothers endorsed fathers and reported positive relationships with them, they felt more efficacious as parents over time.


This study aims to examine the relationship among the parenting correlates, namely parenting stress, parenting self-efficacy, co-parenting alliance, and marital satisfaction. A cross-sectional survey was conducted with a sample of 2029 fathers and 1430 mothers of children aged two to six recruited from 48 nurseries in Hong Kong. Hierarchical regression analysis showed that fathering self-efficacy and fathers’ co-parenting alliance moderated the effect of fathering stress on fathers' marital satisfaction. However, there was no such moderating effect for mothers. Findings support the gender role model of the fathers being less of child carers than the mothers.


This study examined the associations of various parenting correlates, including parenting self-efficacy, parenting stress, co-parenting alliance, satisfaction with father involvement, and marital satisfaction of mothers. A cross-sectional survey was conducted and a sample of 1,140 mothers was recruited. Controlling for relevant variables, hierarchical regression analyses showed that greater co-parenting alliance, higher satisfaction with father involvement, and lower parenting stress were associated with higher maternal marital satisfaction. Findings support the “spillover”
hypothesis, indicating that positive factors in the parental subsystem are significantly associated with higher marital satisfaction in the spousal subsystem.


A cross-sectional survey was conducted with 2,029 fathers of nursery children aged 2–6. Structural equation model analyses showed that spousal capital was positively associated with fathering self-efficacy, fathers’ beliefs on paternal role and father involvement, and negatively associated with fathering stress. Father involvement was also positively related to fathering self-efficacy and fathers’ beliefs on paternal role, but had no significant relationship with fathering stress. The indirect effects of spousal capital on father involvement were significant via fathering self-efficacy and fathers’ beliefs on paternal role. Findings partially supported Belsky’s family ecological model on the mediating role of ontogenic factors in the relationship between microsystemic factors and father involvement.


This study explored romantic attachment style, marital satisfaction and parenthood satisfaction in 157 Australian men and women. There was a focal group 22 married adults with a clinically-confirmed AS diagnosis whose child also had AS and three neuro-typical adult control groups: (a) those whose spouse and child had AS, (b) those whose child had AS but spouse did not, and (c) those with no AS family members. Respondents who had AS themselves were predominantly insecurely avoidant in romantic attachment, in contrast to predominantly securely attached in all other groups. The PSOC Satisfaction scale was used and the results suggested that having a child with AS reduced parental (though not marital) satisfaction but there was no additional independent contribution of own or spouse’s AS.


This study investigated the relationship between maternal fatigue and overreactive discipline, and whether parenting self-efficacy mediates this relationship. Participants were 252 Australian mothers of 1–4 year old children. Levels of fatigue, parenting
self-efficacy, and overreactive discipline were recorded via a self-report questionnaire. A simple mediation model analysis provided support for the direct effect of fatigue on overreactive discipline, as well as the mediation of this relationship by parenting self-efficacy.


Compared the efficacy of three parenting programmes: Incredible Years, Triple P, and Strengthening Families Strengthening Communities. 1121 parents completed the PSOC Efficacy and Satisfaction Scales. Post-study measures showed an improvement on Efficacy and Satisfaction.


Explores the development of the Intensive Parenting Attitudes Questionnaire (IPAQ), a quantitative measure of Intensive Mothering (IM) attitudes, and investigates the reliability and construct validity of the measure when compared to a number of other scales, including the PSOC. Results showed that the Fulfillment subscale of the IPAQ was positively related to both the Efficacy and Satisfaction scales on the PSOC, and negatively related to the Challenging Scale. The Child-Centered scale was positively associated with the Efficacy subscale.


This randomized controlled study evaluated the effectiveness of a parenting education program which provides first-time fathers video self-modeling with feedback. 81 fathers in the intervention group reviewed, with a home visitor, videotapes of themselves in interaction with their infant with positive feedback. Outcomes were measured when the infant was 8 months old and the PSOC was used. Although fathers in both intervention and control groups reported increased competence over time, no significant difference in Efficacy or Satisfaction was found between groups.

Investigated the efficacy of an intervention aimed at treating obesity in children (aged 5-9 years), and examined if the addition of parenting skills training improved outcomes. Participants were randomly assigned to either a healthy lifestyle intervention group (n=84), or a parenting skills and healthy lifestyle intervention group (n=85). The PSOC Efficacy and Satisfaction scales were used. Participants reached a 10% overall weight loss which was maintained at 18 month follow-up. PSOC subscales scores improved from baseline to follow-up.


A self-directed variant of the Positive Parenting Program (Triple P) was evaluated using 63 families, with a preschool-aged child at risk of developing conduct problems. Participants were randomly assigned to a Self-directed Triple P program (SD) or a waitlist group (WL). Both Satisfaction and Efficacy scales were used from the PSOC. Mothers in the SD group reported higher levels of Satisfaction and Efficacy than mothers in the WL group. With both scales, there was a significant decline in scores from post-intervention to follow-up.


We evaluated the psychometric properties of the Hungarian version of the Parenting Sense of Competence Scale (PSOC). In a sample of 407 mothers of non-clinical children aged between 4 and 18 years, confirmatory factor analysis supported a two-factor solution for the PSOC, as suggested by the original authors. The Hungarian version of the PSOC showed good internal consistency and test-retest reliability.

Investigated 72 families of children ages 2-5 on whether mothers’ endorsement of negative cognitive errors and positive illusions uniquely contribute to explaining the impact of parenting daily hassles on parenting adjustment. Variables included, thought about parenting situations, daily hassles, psychological distress, parenting stress and parenting sense of competence. Negative cognitive errors were negatively and significantly correlated with both PSOC Satisfaction and Efficacy. After controlling for parenting hassles, negative cognitive errors explained unique variance in psychological distress, parenting stress, and parenting Satisfaction and Efficacy.


Described the most frequently experienced disability-related events experienced by 19 parents with acquired physical disabilities and their adolescent children (mean age= 14.5 years), and examined the relations between these events, severity of disability, and psychological adjustment. The PSOC Efficacy and Satisfaction scales were included. Negative disability-related events were consistently related to lower parenting Efficacy. Neither parenting Efficacy nor Satisfaction was related to perceptions of disability severity or number of physical limitations.


The Parenting Young Children (PARC) is a self-administered measure of parenting behaviours including: Supporting Positive Behaviours, Setting Limits, and Proactive Parenting. A sample of 579 high risk families was used to assess the validity of the PARC. Primary caregivers completed measures assessing both parent and child functioning, including the PSOC. The PARC was positively correlated with the PSOC.

Investigated the influence of infants’ sleep and crying on the marital relationship in 107 first-time parenting couples during the 1st year after birth. Questionnaires were administered prior to the birth, at 2 and 7 weeks after the birth, and at the 1 year mark. The PSOC Efficacy scale showed a significant increase over time and the rate of change was greater for mothers than for fathers. Marital satisfaction was influenced by crying of the child and by interactions of time with crying, and both maternal and paternal Efficacy.


Level of psychological distress in parents with a child diagnosed with multiple sclerosis (MS) compared to parents with a healthy child was investigated. 15 families with a child with MS and 29 families without completed a battery of self-report measures assessing psychological functioning and parenting, including the PSOC Efficacy and Satisfaction scales. Parents with a child with MS reported significantly lower Satisfaction than did the parents with a healthy child. However, parents with a child with MS did not differ from controls in their level of parenting Efficacy. Additionally, results showed that parents’ level of knowledge about MS was negative correlated with PSOC scores.


A questionnaire, the Echelle Globale du Sentiment de Compé tence Parentale (EGSCP), assessing several domain-specific Self Efficacy Beliefs and three related cognitive constructs, was developed with 705 French-speaking parents of 3 to 7-year-old children. Relations were also found between EGSCP and several criterion variables: support, satisfaction, self-esteem and stress, childrearing behavior, and children’s social competence and behavior. Both the Satisfaction and Efficacy subscales of the PSOC were used.

Explored the relative contribution of parental depression, anxiety and stress and parenting Satisfaction and Efficacy to the explanation of variance in controlling parental feeding styles and practices. 124 mothers reported on both themselves and a selected child. Mothers completed several questionnaires examining demographic information, parental feeding styles, parental feeding practices, parental depression, anxiety and stress and parenting Satisfaction and Efficacy (of the PSOC scale). Parenting Satisfaction contributed significantly to the prediction of the parental feeding practice pressure to eat. Parenting Satisfaction and parental anxiety contributed significantly to the prediction of the parental feeding practice restriction.


Knowledge of effective parenting strategies, parenting confidence, quality of parenting, and child behavior were assessed among a non-clinical sample of 68 parents of children aged 2-5 years. An 8-item PSOC (five items from Satisfaction and three items from Efficacy) was used to measure parents’ overall sense of confidence in the parenting role. Parenting confidence was a significant predictor of intensity of disruptive child behavior, but parenting knowledge was not. However, the relationship between parenting confidence and dysfunctional parenting was moderated by the level of knowledge. There was a stronger negative relationship between confidence and dysfunctional parenting when knowledge level was low than when it was high.


‘Connect’ is a 10 week program for parents or alternative caregivers of at-risk teens that focuses on the building blocks of secure attachment: parental sensitivity, cooperation, reflective capacity, and effective dyadic affect regulation. In Study 1, 20 parents reported significant increases in parenting Satisfaction and Efficacy (as measured by the PSOC) and reductions in adolescents’ aggression, antisocial behaviour and other mental health problems following completion of Connect as
compared to a waitlist control period. These effects were sustained and additional small effects were noted in decreases in conduct problems, depression and anxiety at a 12-month follow-up. The program was then transported to 17 communities serving 309 parents through standardized training and supervision of group leaders. Study 2 summarizes significant pre- to post-treatment reductions in teen externalizing and internalizing problems; enhanced social functioning; and improvements in affect regulation. Parents also reported significant increases in parenting Satisfaction and Efficacy and reductions in caregiver burden.


This study used both observational and self-report methods to investigate interactions and parenting perceptions in parents with borderline personality disorder (BPD). Participants were 17 mothers with BPD and their infants versus 21 control mothers and their infants. The PSOC Efficacy and Satisfaction scales and a parenting stress scale were used. Mothers with BPD reported lower PSOC Satisfaction and Efficacy scores than the control mothers. Further results showed that high stress correlated with low PSOC scores.


The PSOC was translated into Chinese (C-PSOC) and its psychometric properties were examined. A convenience sample of 170 mothers (mean age = 30) was recruited from a postnatal unit in Hong Kong. Mothers completed the C-PSOC, as well as two other scales to establish construct validity. A randomly selected subsample of 57 mothers participated in the 4-week retest. The C-PSOC demonstrated good internal consistency (alpha = .85), test-retest reliability (intraclass correlation coefficient = .87), and construct validity (r = .60, p < .01; r = -.48, p < .01). Factor analysis supported the two-factor structure reflecting the Efficacy and Satisfaction dimensions of the original instrument.

39 preschool boys and 15 girls with diagnoses of Oppositional Defiant Disorder and their parents underwent comprehensive assessments. The total score of the PSOC was used. There were no significant differences in PSOC scores for mothers of boys versus girls.


Families of 54 behaviorally disturbed preschool-aged children (3 to 5 years) were randomly assigned to: standard parent-child interaction therapy (STD); modified PCIT that used didactic videotapes, telephone consultations, and face-to-face sessions (ABB); and no-treatment waitlist control group (WL). 21 non-disturbed preschoolers were recruited as a social validation comparison condition. Post treatment assessment indicated significant improvements in both treatment groups on most measures compared with the WL group. Compared with mothers in the WL condition, both the STD and ABB mothers reported more Satisfaction (PSOC) at post treatment. Improvements were maintained at 6-month follow-up.


In this study, the reliability, validity and factor structure of a Portuguese version of the PSOC scale is examined with a clinical sample of 146 mothers from at-risk families receiving psychosocial interventions from Child Protective Services. Results show that the Portuguese version of the PSOC measures three distinct constructs with acceptable psychometric properties: efficacy, dissatisfaction and controllability. These factors were significantly and positively related to parenting alliance and family cohesion, and negatively associated with parenting stress.

The aim of the present study is to obtain a better understanding of parenting sense of competence in Portuguese at-risk families and, more specifically, to analyze the relations between sociodemographic variables, perceived parenting efficacy, satisfaction with the parenting role and the child well-being. The participants were 207 families (168 mothers and 39 fathers) receiving family preservation interventions in the Algarve (South of Portugal). The Parenting Sense of Competence Scale and a sociodemographic questionnaire was administered by trained interviewers, through individual interviews. We observed significant and positive correlations between parenting efficacy and satisfaction with all the child well-being dimensions (child well-being score, parental disposition and child performance) with the exception of household adequacy.


Investigated the effect of adolescent-grandmother relationships on patterns of adolescent parenting. 148 African American first-time adolescent mothers and their 6 month old infants, as well as the grandmother participated. Baseline evaluation was 3 weeks prior to deliver, and follow-ups occurred at 6, 13, and 24 months. Adolescents who assumed greater care-giving responsibilities reported higher total PSOC scores. Adolescents who reported supportive mother-grandmother relationships also reported greater parenting competence.


Examined how the developmental processes of adaptive autonomy, maladaptive autonomy, and relatedness are related to changes in the residential status of 181 first-time, adolescent, urban, low-income, African American mothers (mean age= 16.4 years old) over the first 24 months postpartum. Older adolescent maternal age, less supportive adolescent mother–grandmother relations, and high household density were associated with leaving the household of origin, but PSOC Efficacy and Satisfaction scores were not associated with residential status.

Parental Efficacy and depressive symptoms in a diverse sample of low income mothers were investigated. The sample consisted of 607 European American, African American, and Hispanic mothers who participated in The Early Steps Project, a multi-site, longitudinal, preventative intervention study. Parental Efficacy (assessed by the PSOC) was significantly associated with depressive symptoms in the entire sample of low income mothers. Ethnicity moderated results, however, such that Efficacy was significantly associated with depressive symptoms for European American mothers but not for the African American and Hispanic mothers.


Investigated the direct and moderating effects of appraisal, coping resources and coping strategies on antenatal depression. 242 primiparous women (mean age = 26 years old) completed questionnaires during the third trimester of pregnancy. Predictors included life events, coping resources, appraisal (including PSOC Efficacy) and coping strategies. Higher depression was significantly correlated with lower Efficacy scores. Although results of regression analyses indicated that appraisal variables overall accounted for a significant increment (9%) in variance in depression, Efficacy did not emerge as a significant predictor within this block.


Investigated the association between child sexual abuse (CSA) and negative parenting outcomes in mothers, and the degree in which maternal depression and parenting competence affect that association. The PSOC Efficacy and Satisfaction scales were used. There was a significant relationship between a history of CSA and mothers’ low levels of parenting sense of competence.

Investigated the relations of parenting quality and child externalizing behavior in a low SES African American sample. Participants (n = 249) were the primary caregivers of early school-age children (mean age = 6.41 years) Data were collected at one time point a year over 4 years. Parents completed measures assessing positive parenting, disciplinary practices, and parental competence, as measured by the PSOC. Participants also completed measures of child externalizing behavior. Findings revealed a transactional relation whereby parenting quality, including parental competence, was predicted by child externalizing behavior and child externalizing behavior was predicted by parenting quality.


Investigate whether It Takes Two to Talk—The Hanen Program for Parents of Preschool Children With Cerebral Palsy is associated with change in interaction between children who have motor disorders and their parents. 11 children aged 19–36 months who had nonprogressive motor disorders that affected their communication, and their mothers, were observed 4 months and 1 month before mothers attended It Takes Two to Talk training, and 1 month and 4 months after its completion. The PSOC was used to assess parenting Efficacy and Satisfaction. After training, mothers initiated less and produced more responses and fewer requests. Children produced more initiations, as well as more requests and provisions of information, after training. PSOC scores did not change.


Evaluated a community-based, universal project (Better Beginnings) designed to prevent emotional and behavioral problems and promote general development in young children. The research involved 554 4-year old children and their families
living in disadvantaged neighborhoods. Longitudinal analysis of changes over the first 5-years of project operation indicated significant improvements in children’s and parents’ social-emotional functioning and physical health, parenting behaviors, and neighborhoods and school characteristics. More specifically, the PSOC indicated increased parenting Satisfaction after the Better Beginnings program was implemented.


Limited research has focused on parenting practices used by caregivers raising children with fetal alcohol spectrum disorders (FASD). We hypothesized that parental attributions of children’s misbehavior would relate to the parenting strategies caregivers utilize with children with FASD. Thirty-one caregivers of children with FASD (age 4–8) were interviewed with the Parenting Practices Interview (PPI). Quantitative measures of FASD knowledge, parenting sense of competence and stress, and child behavior problems were also included. Along with other findings, caregivers who attributed their child’s misbehavior to underlying neurodevelopmental disabilities were more likely to use antecedent strategies and feel more confident in managing their child’s behavior.


Two variants of a behavioral parent training program known as Stepping Stones Triple P (SSTP) were evaluated using 74 preschool-aged children with developmental disabilities. Families were randomly allocated to an enhanced parent training intervention that combined parenting skills and care-giving coping skills (SSTP-E), standard parent training intervention alone (SSTP-S) or a waitlist control (WL) condition. The PSOC Total scale was used. At post-intervention, mothers in the SSTP-E and SSTP-S conditions reported significantly a higher level of parental competence than the mothers in the waitlist condition. No significant differences were evident between the SSTP-E and SSTP-S conditions on parental competence.

Tested a model of first time mothers’ sense of competence using data from 176 mothers and their male partners. Participants completed the 17-item PSOC, as well as measures assessing parental alliance, psychiatric symptoms, social support, infant characteristics, and parental involvement in child leisure activities. Mothers’ sense of competence was significantly associated with their perceived alliance with their partner, level of social support received, and their child’s overall temperament. Mothers with higher reported levels of social support and stronger parental alliance with their partner had higher scores on the PSOC (total score). Mothers who reported difficult child temperament had lower PSOC total scores.


Examined the associations between severe emotional and behavioural disorders in children and parental sense of competence. The sample included 150 youth receiving either residential (n = 49) or home-based treatment (n = 101) and their parent. Parents completed a revised 12-item version of the PSOC, as well as measures assessing parent depression and family environment. Parenting competence was negatively associated with severity of child internalizing and externalizing behavior.


Evaluated whether a short parent-training program (PT) reduces risk factors related to development of childhood socioemotional and behavior problems in a non-clinical community sample. Data from parents in a randomized controlled trial on PT for children aged 2 to 8 years (N = 186) at pre-intervention, post-intervention and one-year-follow up were collected. There were significant differences in the changes in the two groups, with reductions in harsh parenting and child behavior problems, an enhancement of positive parenting and of the parents’ sense of competence (both Satisfaction and Efficacy scales were used) in the intervention group. The effects on parenting and parents’ Satisfaction all lasted through 1-year follow up.

Investigated the characteristics of parents enrolled in parenting classes offered to the general population and their motivations for registering in a sample of 189 parents of children aged 2-8 years. 118 parents completed questionnaires, including the PSOC Efficacy and Satisfaction scales, the ECBI, PSI-Short Form, and PPI as follow up measures. High parental Efficacy and Satisfaction were associated with low problem child behaviors. Parenting (as measured by the PSOC) was among the best predictors of the ECBI Intensity score.


The purpose of our study was to examine associations between childhood sexual abuse (CSA), physical intimate partner violence (PIPV), depressive symptoms, personal mastery, and perceptions of parenting competence among low-income mothers of young children (N = 264). Our hypotheses were: (a) CSA would be positively associated with PIPV, (b) PIPV would be positively associated with depressive symptoms and negatively associated with mastery and parenting competence, and (c) the association between PIPV and women's sense of parenting competence would be mediated by depressive symptoms and mastery. The results supported our first and third hypotheses and partially supported our second.


Investigated self-reported parenting stress and competence of mothers with and without a history of child sexual abuse (CSA). 264 women participated in the study, 107 with a history of CSA, and 157 with no previous history with CSA. Mothers completed a battery of measures including the 16-item PSOC. Analyses were conducted to determine which of three conceptual parenting profiles mothers belonged to based on their self-report measures: Class 1 (high stress/low competence), Class 2 (average stress and competence), and Class 3 (low stress/high competence). A
history of CSA was not significantly related to mothers’ membership in any of the three class groups.


Examined the acceptability and representativeness of 4 widely utilized, laboratory-based parent-child interaction tasks in a sample of 43 nonreferred, 3- to 6-year old children and their mothers of European-American or African-American ethnicity. Mothers rated the acceptability of each task and the degree to which it was representative of “typical” interactions occurring with the child. Repeated-measures analyses of variance revealed high levels of acceptability and representativeness for all tasks, but consistent differences across tasks. These ratings were predominantly stable over a 2-week period. Social validity ratings were significantly associated with PSOC Efficacy and Satisfaction scales, maternal ethnicity, child gender, and child age, but not child behavior problems.


Adoptive parents, with children between 3 and 8 years who were screened to have serious behavioral problems early in the placement, participated in home-based, manualized, parenting programmes delivered by trained and supervised family social workers or treatment as usual. Baseline, immediate post-intervention and 6-month follow-ups were assessed using questionnaires and adopter interviews. Both Efficacy and Satisfaction scales of the PSOC were used. At the 6-month follow-up, a significant difference was found for Satisfaction in favour of the intervention group. The Efficacy score did not show a significant difference. Negative parenting approaches were reduced in the intervention group. However, no significant differences in child problems were found between the intervention groups and control group, adjusting for baseline scores.


Described the 3 year outcomes of three different variants of the Triple P-Positive Parenting Program. 305 families with a 3-year-old child were randomly assigned to
enhanced Behavioral Family Intervention (EBFI), standard BFI (SBFI), a completely self-directed BFI (SDBFI), or to a waitlist (WL). Among the self-report measures, the PSOC was used to measure mothers’ and fathers’ parenting Satisfaction and Efficacy at pre- and post-intervention, 1 and 3-year follow-up. There were sustained improvements to 3 year follow-up in the mothers’ and fathers’ reports of parenting sense of competence in all three interventions, but no significant differences between conditions.


The relationship between maternal self-efficacy, dysfunctional discipline practices and child conduct problems was examined. Global, domain and task-specific self-efficacy were assessed in mothers of 2- to 8-year-old children with conduct problems and non-clinic mothers from the community. The Efficacy scale of the PSOC was used as the measure of parenting domain efficacy. The groups did not differ on Efficacy. The authors argue that self-efficacy on measures more specific to parenting tasks may be better predictors and measures.


Investigated the relation between therapeutic alliance and treatment outcomes for parents (n = 117) participating the Triple P parenting intervention for children with externalizing behavioural problems. Participants completed a battery of measures assessing parenting behaviours, including the PSOC, therapeutic alliance, and child functioning. Findings show a relation between higher parent rated therapeutic alliance and increased parental self-efficacy and higher self-reported parenting skills.


Investigated the link between fathers’ perceptions of their parenting self-efficacy and its influence on the peer relations of their children, and if fathers’ self-efficacy is predictive of the peer relations of their children. Subjects included 200 fathers and their preschool age children (aged 5-6). Fathers completed measures of parenting,
including both subscales of the PSOC, and measures of peer relations including the Peer Victimization Scale, and Child Behaviour Scale. Fathers’ PSOC scores had a significant effect on their children’s peer relationships, for instance, increased scores on the PSOC were predictive of decreased child aggression. Furthermore, this pattern held true for fathers’ parenting self-efficacy as a predictor for children’s’ exclusion, hyperactivity-distractibility, and victimization levels.


An Internet-facilitated cognitive-behavioural treatment intervention for depression was designed for low-SES mothers of young children. 70 mothers of young children registered in Head Start were randomly assigned to complete one of two parallel intervention groups: an 8-session Internet facilitated intervention (Mom-Net), or delayed intervention/facilitated treatment-as-usual (DI/TAU). The PSOC Efficacy and Satisfaction scores were included among the self-report measures completed pre- and post-treatment, and again at 3-month follow-up. Mothers who participated in the Mom-Net condition improved in their parenting sense of competence as measured on the PSOC. Improvements were maintained at 3-month follow-up.


This study compared aspects of family functioning in 25 adolescent girls with a primary DSM-IV diagnosis of Anorexia, 20 girls with an ICD-10 diagnosis of insulin dependent diabetes mellitus (IDDM), and 20 girls from the community. When compared with mothers of daughters with IDDM, mothers of girls with Anorexia experienced greater family conflict, reduced parental alliance, and increased feelings of depression. Parenting Satisfaction and Efficacy scales were lower in mothers of girls with anorexia.


This study evaluated the efficacy of a solution-focused parent intervention aimed at alleviating parenting stress and feelings of incompetence. Mothers and fathers (n =
45) of children aged 18 months to 18 years participated. Parents completed the 17-item PSOC, as well as measures of parenting stress and parent-child relationship quality, pre- and post-study. All participants received the intervention, which consisted of two sessions with a trained consultant (i.e. a counselor, or graduate-level counselling student). All participants reported decreased parenting stress as well as increased parental competence, however, these findings are limited given the absence of a control group.


Assessed the impact of maternal attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) symptoms on the effectiveness of a parent-training (PT) program for preschool ADHD. 83 3-year old children with ADHD and their mothers completed an 8-week PT program. Mothers who had high levels of ADHD symptoms had lower scores on both the Satisfaction and Efficacy scales of the PSOC compared to the mothers with medium to low maternal ADHD symptoms. High levels of maternal ADHD symptoms limited the improvement shown by children with ADHD after a program of PT.


Evaluated two parent-based therapies for preschool attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) in a community sample. 3-year-old children displaying a preschool equivalent of ADHD were randomly assigned to parent training, parent counseling support, or a wait list control group. Measures of child symptoms and mothers’ well being were taken before and after intervention and at 15 week follow-up. Results from the PSOC indicate that the mothers in the PT group had a greater increase in Efficacy and Satisfaction than mothers in the counseling support or wait-list groups post-treatment and at follow-up.

Investigated the efficacy of an intervention programme for depressive mothers and their preschool age children. 406 mothers participated in the study; 220 in a control group, and 186 in a training group. Dependent variables included child outcomes, parenting behaviours, parental sense of competence, and parenting stress. Mothers completed a number of measures assessing parenting variables at pre- and post-study, including the PSOC. Mothers in the training group reported an increase in parenting competence post-study, whereas, the mothers in the control group reported a decrease.


This paper reports a small-scale pragmatic evaluation of Cygnet (a parenting intervention aimed to help parents address difficulties associated with autistic children by increasing parenting confidence) as it was routinely delivered in two English cities. A non-randomized controlled study of outcomes for parents (and their children) was conducted. Parents either attending, or waiting to attend, Cygnet were recruited (intervention group: IG, n=35; comparator group: CG, n=32). Parents completed standardized measures of child behaviour and parenting sense of competence pre- and post-intervention, and at three-month follow-up (matched time points for CG). Attending Cygnet was associated with significant improvements in parenting satisfaction and the specific child behaviour goals.


The PSOC was translated into Thai and its psychometric properties were examined. A sample of fathers and expectant fathers (n = 195) completed the 17-item PSOC. Analyses revealed good internal consistencies for the total scale (α = .78), Efficacy (α = .73), and Satisfaction subscales (α = .80). A confirmatory factor analysis warranted a revision of the PSOC and, subsequent removal of item 17, resulting in a better goodness of fit. Findings from this study provide preliminary evidence for the use of the Thai PSOC among fathers.

We examined parenting satisfaction and self-efficacy in relation to alcohol use problems and sexual risk among 346 young African American women enrolled in an HIV prevention trial, 41 % (n = 141) of whom were mothers. Compared to non-parenting women, mothers with the highest parenting satisfaction reported fewer alcohol use problems; mothers with the lowest parenting satisfaction reported lower condom use and were more likely to have multiple partners and test positive for T. vaginalis. Parenting self-efficacy was not associated with the outcomes examined.


Explored potential predictors of psychological distress and moderators of the relation between parenting stress and psychological distress in mothers of children with pervasive developmental disorders (PDDs). 97 mothers of children between the ages of 2 and 18 years with autism spectrum disorders participated. Among the self-report measures, the PSOC Total, Efficacy, and Satisfaction scales were used. The PSOC Total scores were negatively correlated with psychological distress; however, a supplementary regression analysis demonstrated that Satisfaction and Efficacy operated differently for mothers of children with PDDs. Although higher Satisfaction scores predicted lower levels of psychological distress, higher Efficacy scores predicted higher levels of psychological distress.


This study examines whether three existing instruments assessing fathering behavior can consistently and adequately measure father involvement when administered separately to fathers and mothers. Using a snowball sample method, the researchers surveyed mother and father respondents (N = 133) about their perceptions of father behavior and factors pertaining to perception of the father role. Respondents answered questions related to expectations of fathering, satisfaction with performance, partner support for parenting, and perception of paternal self-efficacy. Results revealed high reliability of these instruments, with no gender differences on the three main scales, except three items in the subscales of one scale.

30 families were randomly assigned to either a brief 3 to 4 session behavioral family intervention program for parents of preschool-aged children in a primary care setting, or a wait-list control condition. The program had a significant effect on PSOC Satisfaction scores.


Examined whether mothers in their first year postpartum could be grouped based on their reported symptoms of fatigue and depression. Mothers completed a battery of measures assessing fatigue, depression, and parenting variables, including the PSOC. Findings revealed four groups based on reported symptoms: ‘Moderately Depressed’, ‘Fatigued and Depressed’, ‘Fatigued Only’, and ‘Low Fatigue and Depression’. The ‘Fatigued and Depressed’ group reported the lowest PSOC scores (both scales) out of all the groups.


Compared the efficacy of a group-based cognitive-behavioral treatment (GCBT) delivered exclusively to parents of young anxious children with the same intervention delivered to both children and parents, relative to a Wait-list Control condition. Both Efficacy and Satisfaction scales of the PSOC were used. An unexpected finding was that parenting Satisfaction and to some extent parenting Efficacy reduced significantly from pre- to post treatment regardless of the active treatment condition.


The relationships between sub-clinical levels of maternal symptoms of attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and parental cognitions and behaviors in a community sample of mothers of young infants were examined. 99 mothers of 6-
month-old infants participated. Although ADHD symptoms did not predict maternal Efficacy over and above psychological distress, a significant relationship between psychological distress and Efficacy was found. Moreover, ADHD symptoms significantly negatively predicted parenting Satisfaction after controlling for psychological distress.


Investigated: (1) how Parenting self-efficacy changes over time, (2) the relationship between age 2 parenting self-efficacy and children's behavior problems 2 years later, and (3) the potential mediating role of maternal depression in relation to the association between parenting self-efficacy and child problems. 652 ethnically and geographically diverse mothers and their 2-year-old children at high risk for conduct problems participated. The PSOC Efficacy scale was used and increased between ages 2 and 4 with higher initial levels predicting lower caregiver-reported child age 4 conduct problems. The relationship between PSOC and later child conduct problems was mediated by maternal depression.


This study investigated parental religiousness and its effect on the relationship between child behavior problems and parental functioning. Parents (n=139) of children (aged 3-12) completed measures of child behavior problems, religious coping, sanctification of parenting, biblical conservatism, and parental functioning including the PSOC. Findings indicated that parents who endorsed low levels of positive religious coping, and whose children reported high levels of behavior problems had the lowest scores on the PSOC total score. Parents who endorsed low levels of positive religious coping and whose children had low behavior problems reported the highest PSOC total scores.


Investigated the efficacy of the parenting program Stepping Stones Triple P for
parents of children with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD). 59 families with a child with ASD aged between 2 and 9 participated in this randomized controlled trial. The PSOC Satisfaction and Efficacy scales were used at pre-treatment, post-treatment and 6-month follow-up. There were no significant differences on the Efficacy Scale or the Satisfaction scale, although there was a trend for Stepping Stones to increase the Satisfaction scale. Analyses of follow-up data indicated that increases in Satisfaction for the treatment group were maintained at follow-up. The intervention did not have a significant effect upon parental Efficacy at post-treatment.


Evaluates the efficacy of the Dads Tuning into Kids (DadsTIK) emotion socialization pilot program, designed for use with fathers of preschool age children. Fathers (n = 43) attended 7 sessions of the program, which teaches emotion coaching parenting skills, and was delivered in a group format. Fathers completed measures of parenting behavior and cognitions, including the PSOC, and child outcomes pre- and post-study. Fathers’ parental competence improved post-study, as did child outcomes.