

How poverty may affect children's behavior

July 19 2017



Credit: CC0 Public Domain

In a recent study of young children experiencing homelessness, high-quality parenting was associated with better peer relationships and protection from internalizing problems in the context of family adversity. In contrast, risk factors related to poverty were linked with more disruptive behavior and worse teacher-child relationships, even

when parenting was strong.

The study included 245 homeless parents and their children, aged 4 to 6 years. The findings suggest that children exposed to high family adversity may respond well to parenting interventions, whereas children in [extreme poverty](#) may benefit from interventions targeting [disruptive behavior](#) and enhancing teacher-child relationships.

"These results emphasize the importance of high-quality parenting for social-emotional development, but also its potential limits. Severe poverty may overwhelm the benefits of strong parenting for children's behavior, suggesting that interventions promoting child resilience need to reduce poverty-related risk in addition to building protective factors in the family," said Madelyn Labella, a doctoral candidate and the lead author of the *Child Development* study.

More information: *Child Development* (2017). [DOI: 10.1111/cdev.12894](#)

Provided by Wiley

Citation: How poverty may affect children's behavior (2017, July 19) retrieved 2 May 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2017-07-poverty-affect-children-behavior.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.
