**THE IMPACT OF MALADAPTIVE BEHAVIOUR ON PARENTS OF CHILDREN WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**

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**Objectives:** Current literature regarding the impact of child factors, specifically problem behaviour, on parents of children with developmental disabilities (DD) heavily focuses on the negative outcomes parents face. While maladaptive behaviour is recognized to contribute to negative parental outcomes such as parental distress, burnout, pessimism etc., little research examines how maladaptive behaviour and other child characteristics impact *positive* parental outcomes such as joy brought to parents by raising a child with a DD, new friendships with other parents in a common situation, or an increase of family closeness. In previous research, maladaptive behaviour has commonly been examined in terms of overall scores or broad categories (e.g., internalizing, externalizing). To date, there is little research looking at the specific types of maladaptive behaviour (hurtful to self, disruptive behaviours, socially offensive behaviour, withdrawal or inattentive behaviour etc.) in relation to positive and negative parental outcomes. The current study examines the impact of child characteristics, with a specific focus on maladaptive behaviour types, on positive and negative parental outcomes in caregivers of children with DD.

**Methods:** Data collected from the Great Outcomes for Kids Impacted by Severe Developmental Disabilities (GO4KIDDS) research project involves school-aged children with severe and complex developmental disabilities (intellectual disabilities, autism spectrum disorder, physical disabilities, genetic syndromes, and dual diagnoses) and their caregivers. The current study used parent-reported information from the GO4KIDDS brief and extended survey (Perry & Weiss, 2008) regarding child characteristics (age, gender, diagnosis, adaptive and maladaptive behaviour [Scales of Independent Behaviour-Revised; SIB-R]), parental demographics (gender, marital status, employment information), positive parental outcomes (Positive Gain Scale; PGS), and negative parental outcomes (Family Stress and Coping Interview; FSCI). The study examines data collected from 207 caregivers (91% mothers) of children 3 to 21 years of age (*M*=10.81, *SD*=3.53) with severe DD.

**Results:** The analyses for this study are currently underway. Results will be presented as correlations of child variables (age, adaptive skill level, overall maladaptive behaviour scores, and specific maladaptive behaviour types) with positive and negative parental outcomes. In controlling for other relevant child factors, regressions will explore if maladaptive behaviour predicts positive and negative parental outcomes.

**Discussion/Conclusion:** The conclusions for this study are currently pending. The results will display and help explicate the relationship between child characteristics, specifically maladaptive behaviour types, and positive and negative outcomes in parents of children with severe DD in Canada. This information will help formulate future examination regarding influencing child characteristics and parent outcomes in families raising children with DD. We expect the results will lead to clinical implications regarding interventions for parents who experience the negative outcomes based on child factors and interventions focused on maladaptive behaviour for children diagnosed with DD.

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