

- **Name of the study:** Risk factors and resilience for the quality of life of children with developmental delay from families of medium-low socioeconomic status
- **Year:** 2024
- **Type of research:** research
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Abstract

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Children with developmental delays face difficulties in various areas that may be risk factors for their quality of life. The purpose of the study is to test the following issues among children with developmental delay from families of medium-low socioeconomic status in Israel: 1) Is the degree of developmental delay related to the children's quality of life when they enter elementary school? 2) Are there differences in the way the children and the parents see the children's quality of life? 3) What are the risk and resilience factors that contribute to predicting the children's quality of life? Method: The study is a longitudinal study and includes two stages: 1) Age 2-5 years: 84 children and their two parents from the Ramla and Lod area who were diagnosed in preschool with developmental delay. Various characteristics of the child and his parents were evaluated as part of a medical and psychological assessment. 2) Age 8 years: in the framework of the current study, these families were approached when the children entered elementary school. An interview for the children was conducted through an interactive conversation accompanied by animation regarding the child's quality of life and adaptation to school. Also, his parents answered questionnaires regarding the quality of life and his adaptation. Importance of the study: the sample is unique and includes children with developmental delay from a medium-low socioeconomic status in Israel. The study's conclusions enable the identification of variables that promote the quality of life of children at an important developmental juncture, and this, for the first time, in accordance with the perception of the children themselves already at this young age. Main findings: Maternal playfulness in early childhood moderated the relationship between early developmental risk and the child's quality of life according to self-report in the first years of elementary school. Higher levels of early developmental risk were found to be associated with lower levels of self-reported quality of life in later years, only for children whose mothers had a lower level of playfulness. Conversely, when mothers had higher levels of playfulness, surprisingly, higher levels of early developmental risk were associated with higher levels of quality of life in later years. In addition,

it was found that maternal reflective function in early childhood moderates the relationship between early developmental risk and self-reported acceptance of peers in the first years of elementary school. When mothers showed higher or average levels of reflectiveness, a higher level of early developmental risk was associated with a higher level of self-reported peer acceptance in later years. In addition, it was found that academic self-concept, the mother's quality of life as well as her perception of the impact of raising the child on the family were found to be related to the child's quality of life. It should be noted that a relationship was found between self-report and the mother's report on the child's quality of life, with no differences between the reports. Main conclusions: The results of the study will be used to build an intervention and prevention program in the community, focusing the work at the center of child development, which aims to improve the quality of life of children with developmental delay in families of medium-low socio-economic status in Israel.

Keywords

Developmental intellectual disability, children with developmental delay, quality of life, families in middle-low socioeconomic status in Israel, playfulness, parental involvement, social support, longitudinal research.

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