

# Roles of families in developmental psychopathology

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INVESTMENTS IN EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT

# Final paper

- Please **email** me your final paper by **December 31**.

# Risks in family context: Child maltreatment and domestic violence

Developmental psychopathology perspective (e.g., Cicchetti & Valentino, 2006):

- “**average expectable environment**” which consists of **species-specific range of environmental conditions** that support development in the adaptive range of environmental conditions that support development in the adaptive range among all individuals.
- Maltreating families fail to provide many of the expected experiences that are required for normal development.
  - Infants, preschoolers, adolescents, etc.

# Risks in family context: Child maltreatment and domestic violence

## Types of Maltreatment:

- Physical abuse (e.g., beating, scalding, slapping, punching, kicking)
- Sexual abuse (e.g., fondling, intercourse, etc.)
- Neglect (failure to provide basic necessities or lack of supervision)
- **Psychological abuse** (failure to meet a child's needs for emotional security, acceptance or autonomy)
  - Ridiculing, terrorizing or excessively controlling the child
- **Exposure to domestic violence**
  - E.g., witnessing interparental violence

# Risks in family context: Child maltreatment and domestic violence

## Psychological abuse

- To convey the message that the child is worthless, inadequate, unloved, endangered, or only valuable in so far as he/she meets someone else's needs.
1. **Terrorizing**: threatening violence against a child or the child's loved ones, placing a child in dangerous situations
  2. **Isolating**: confining a child to home, refusing to allow a child to interact with others outside family
  3. **Exploiting or corrupting**: modelling or encouraging criminal or developmentally inappropriate behavior, treating a child as a servant, coercing a child into playing a parentified role and meeting the parent's emotional needs
  4. **Denying emotional responsiveness**: interacting with a child only when necessary and failing to express affection, caring, and love

# Risks in family context: Child maltreatment and domestic violence

Children may have experienced multiple forms of maltreatment, but we do not know because research failed to do so:

- Physical abuse is associated more with aggression
- Neglect is associated more with social withdrawal and cognitive delay.
- Sexual abuse is more associated with sexualized behavior and internalizing disorders (particularly, depression)
- Psychological maltreatment is associated with depression and aggression.
- Exposure to domestic violence is related to intergenerational transmission of violence.