

**Mindful Parenting and Child Internalizing Problems: Assessment,  
Relationships and Treatment**

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School of Psychology

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## **Statement of Originality**

I certify that this thesis has not been submitted for any degree or purpose, other than in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Clinical Psychology and Doctor of Philosophy at The University of Sydney. To the best of my knowledge and other than as expressly stated in this thesis, the intellectual content of this thesis is the product of my own work. The assistance received in preparing this thesis and the published studies included in this thesis has been acknowledged.

Date: 3 December 2021

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Virginia Burgdorf

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## **Author Attribution Statements**

The work for this thesis was done primarily by the Candidate, under the supervision of Dr Szabó and Associate Professor Abbott. Chapters 1 to 5 of this thesis reproduce, with some amendments, both unpublished and published manuscripts prepared by the Candidate in working towards this thesis. The manuscript reference, outline of amendments made and authorship contributions for each of Chapters 1 to 5 are described below.

### **Chapter 1**

Burgdorf, V. (2019). *Mindful parenting: Relationships to parenting variables and parent and youth mental health*. [Unpublished manuscript]. School of Psychology, The University of Sydney.

Chapter 1 reproduces part of the text of the unpublished paper referred to above, which the Candidate was required to submit to The University of Sydney as part of the Master of Clinical Psychology and Doctor of Philosophy degree program, in the form of a draft literature review for this thesis. Chapter 1 expands upon the unpublished paper to ensure that the thesis forms a cohesive whole, as required by the University's procedures relating to higher degrees by research.

Authorship: The Candidate searched and reviewed the relevant literature, developed the aims of the thesis based upon that review, and wrote and revised each draft of the unpublished manuscript.

### **Chapter 2**

Burgdorf, V., Szabó, M., & Abbott, M. J. (2019). The effect of mindfulness interventions for parents on parenting stress and youth psychological outcomes: A systematic review and meta-analysis. *Frontiers in Psychology, 10*:1336. doi: 10.3389/fpsyg.2019.01336



Chapter 2 of this thesis reproduces the text from the published article referred to above (Appendix A1). Minor amendments have been made to the published version to ensure that the format of Chapter 2 is consistent with the layout of this thesis.

Authorship: The Candidate designed and conducted each step of the review and meta-analysis, including searching and reviewing literature, extracting and analysing data and writing each draft of the manuscript. The Candidate was assisted by Avalon Tissue, a Master of Clinical Psychology student, who independently reviewed a portion of the studies to be included and the risk of bias of included studies. M. Szabó and M. Abbott reviewed the design and collaborated on editing the manuscript.

### **Chapter 3**

Burgdorf, V., & Szabó, M. (2021). The Interpersonal Mindfulness in Parenting Scale in mothers of children and infants: Factor structure and associations with child internalizing problems. *Frontiers in Psychology, 11*:633709. doi: 10.3389/fpsyg.2020.633709

Chapter 3 of this thesis reproduces part of the text from the published article referred to above (Appendix B1). The published article contains material on two aspects of the Interpersonal Mindfulness in Parenting Scale (IMP): its factor structure and its relationship to child internalizing problems. Chapter 3 reproduces the parts of the published article that relate to the factor structure of the IMP but omits the other parts. To maintain the continuity and meaning of the text in Chapter 3 after the omission, and to ensure that its format is consistent with the layout of this thesis, minor amendments have been made to the retained aspects of the published article.

Authorship: The Candidate designed the study, obtained ethical approval, recruited participants, collected and analysed the data, interpreted the results and wrote and revised

each draft of the manuscript. M. Szabó reviewed and revised the design and statistical analyses and reviewed and critiqued each version of the manuscript.

#### **Chapter 4**

Burgdorf, V., & Szabó, M. (2021). The Interpersonal Mindfulness in Parenting Scale in mothers of children and infants: Factor structure and associations with child internalizing problems. *Frontiers in Psychology, 11*:633709. doi: 10.3389/fpsyg.2020.633709

Chapter 4 of this thesis reproduces part of the text from the published article referred to above (Appendix B1). The published article contains material on two aspects of the Interpersonal Mindfulness in Parenting Scale (IMP): its factor structure and its relationship to child internalizing problems. Chapter 4 reproduces parts of the published article that relate to the associations between the IMP and child internalizing problems. As these aspects of the published article constituted only a minor part of the overall article, Chapter 4 substantially expands upon them to ensure that the thesis forms a cohesive whole, as required by the University's procedures relating to higher degrees by research.

Authorship: The Candidate designed the study, obtained ethical approval, recruited participants, collected and analysed the data, interpreted the results and wrote and revised each draft of the manuscript. M. Szabó reviewed and revised the design and statistical analyses and reviewed and critiqued each version of the manuscript.

#### **Chapter 5**

Burgdorf, V., Abbott, M. J., & Szabó, M. (2022). A mindful parenting program for parents concerned about child internalizing problems: A randomised controlled feasibility study. *Mindfulness, 13*, 430-448.

Chapter 5 of this thesis reproduces the text from the published article referred to above (Appendix D1). Minor amendments have been made to the published version to ensure that the format of Chapter 5 is consistent with the layout of this thesis.

Authorship: The Candidate designed the study, obtained ethical approval, recruited and screened participants, co-facilitated the program, collected and analysed data, interpreted results, and wrote and revised the manuscript. The Candidate was assisted by Julia White, a Master of Clinical Psychology and Doctor of Philosophy student, who provided an independent review of the qualitative data collected in the study. M. Abbott reviewed the statistical analyses and each draft of the manuscript. M. Szabó reviewed and revised the study design, supervised the recruitment of participants, co-facilitated the program, and reviewed the statistical analyses and each draft of the manuscript.

### **Supervisor statement**

As supervisor for the candidature upon which this thesis is based, I can confirm that the authorship attribution statements above are correct.

3 December 2021

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Assoc. Prof. Maree Abbott

## Abstract

Parenting stress and child mental health are interwoven, such that reducing parenting stress may be advantageous for more fully addressing child symptoms. This thesis sought to build on our knowledge of the impact of mindful parenting programs (MPPs) on parents and children by evaluating whether MPPs reduce parenting stress for parents of children with primary internalizing problems and exploring whether and how MPPs might reduce those internalizing problems. The meta-analysis (Chapter 2) found that MPPs may reduce parenting stress and improve child outcomes, but that reductions in parenting stress did not predict improvements in child internalizing problems. Confirmatory factor analyses (Chapter 3) showed the 6-facet model of mindful parenting identified by de Bruin et al. (2014) to be a good fit in English-language mothers of children and infants. Regression analyses (Chapter 4) with mothers of children and infants showed that mindful parenting uniquely predicted child internalizing problems, parental experiential avoidance, cognitive emotion regulation and parent beliefs and behaviors relating to child anxiety. The Non-judgmental Acceptance of Parental Functioning facet was a key outcome predictor, especially for mothers of children. A randomized, waitlist-controlled feasibility study (Chapter 5) found that an 8-week MPP was well-attended and acceptable to community-recruited parents with concerns about their child's internalizing problems. Effects favoured the intervention group, with moderate to large improvements in school-aged child internalizing symptoms, parenting stress, parent experiential avoidance, cognitive emotion regulation and unhelpful beliefs regarding child anxiety. Coping in specific, stressful parenting situations also improved. Qualitative feedback identified increased acceptance, self-compassion and empathy as helping parents cope with child internalizing problems. This thesis shows that MPPs are likely to reduce parenting stress and child internalizing, for families of children with primary internalizing concerns. Reductions in child internalizing problems could be explained by improved parent emotion

regulation and less unhelpful beliefs regarding child anxiety. These preliminary findings could be further explored experimentally and through longitudinal path analysis.

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## **CHAPTER ONE. Literature review**

### **Mindful parenting and its relationship to parenting stress and child mental health**

Chapter 1 contains a review of the literature relating to mindful parenting, particularly in connection with parenting stress and child psychological outcomes. The research is summarized, and areas for further research are identified.

This Chapter reproduces part of the text of the unpublished paper referred to below, which the Candidate was required to submit to The University of Sydney as part of the Master of Clinical Psychology and Doctor of Philosophy degree program, in the form of a draft literature review for this thesis. Chapter 1 expands upon the unpublished paper to ensure that the thesis forms a cohesive whole, as required by the University's procedures relating to higher degrees by research.

Burgdorf, V. (2019). *Mindful parenting: Relationships to parenting variables and parent and youth mental health*. [Unpublished manuscript]. School of Psychology, The University of Sydney.

## **Abstract**

Most parents will feel stressed in their parenting role at times, but the risk of experiencing this stress is undoubtedly greater for parents of children with psychological difficulties (Vaughan et al., 2012). For some of these families, the stress experienced by parents may lead to poorer parenting (Venta et al., 2016), which in turn worsens child problems (Pinquart, 2017). For others, the stress will compromise parent efforts to seek or engage with the treatment of their child's difficulties (Maliken & Katz, 2013). Accordingly, managing parenting stress is important. One characteristic that has been suggested as offering some protection to both parents and children against the effects of parenting stress is parental mindfulness (Campbell et al., 2017). An increasing number of intervention studies have offered mindful parenting programs for parents, particularly to those struggling to manage child psychopathology, with the intention of building the mindfulness they bring to their parenting and decreasing the level of stress they experience. This literature review will summarize the existing research on mindful parenting, including regarding the theoretical construct of mindful parenting and how it is measured, and the outcomes of mindful parenting programs for parents and their children. Based on that review, areas for future research will be identified and addressed within this thesis.

## **Parenting stress**

Parenting can involve great love and joy, but is also challenging, and even stressful at times. The experience of parenting stress occurs when a parent perceives that the demands of parenting outweigh their capacity to meet those demands (Östberg et al., 2007). Parents with higher levels of parenting stress experience worse psychological well-being (Lavee et al., 1996) and marital quality (Robinson & Neece, 2015). Higher parenting stress is also related to over-reactive and hostile parenting behavior (McMahon & Meins, 2012; Venta et al., 2016), which contributes to poorer child outcomes (Pinquart, 2017). Children of stressed parents experience more anxiety and depression (Rodriguez, 2011), more behavioral problems (Davis & Carter, 2008) and poorer executive function (de Cock et al., 2017) and social competence (Anthony et al., 2005).

Various child- and parent-related factors contribute to parenting stress (Abidin, 1992). Child-related stressors include sleeping and feeding problems (Östberg et al., 2007), poor emotional health (Vaughan et al., 2012) and behavior problems (Baker et al., 2003), while parent-related stressors include poor emotional health and low self-efficacy regarding parenting (Deater-Deckard, 2004), and the tendency to hold negative perceptions or make negative evaluations regarding the child (Costa et al., 2017; Costa et al., 2006). Further, consistent with the generally transactional nature of parent-child relationships (Sameroff & Mackenzie, 2003), child and parent factors also tend to interact (Deater-Deckard, 2004). For example, child behavioral problems may contribute to more negative perceptions of the child and more negative parenting behaviors, which in turn contribute to further behavior problems and more parenting stress (Deater-Deckard et al., 2005).

As child mental health contributes to parenting stress directly and through parent perceptions regarding the child, parents of children with mental health problems are particularly vulnerable to parenting stress (Vaughan et al., 2012). Effectively treating child

psychopathology is therefore likely to reduce the level of parenting stress associated with it. However, although treatments such as cognitive behavioral therapy and parent behavior training are generally efficacious for child mental health problems (James et al., 2013; Mingeback et al., 2018), these treatments are less successful for children when their parents are stressed (Compton et al., 2014; Reyno & McGrath, 2006). Stress hinders emotion regulation skills (Crandall et al., 2015; Raio et al., 2013), making it harder for parents to model appropriate behavior for their child. Stress also impacts parents' ability to engage in their child's treatment, acquire new skills in therapy and implement these at home (Maliken & Katz, 2013). As well as hindering treatment of child psychopathology, longitudinal evidence suggests that parenting stress could also contribute to later child psychopathology (Stone et al., 2016). For some families, addressing parenting stress may therefore be a necessary step towards improving child well-being.

Since holding negative beliefs or making negative judgments regarding a child is a source of parenting stress (Costa et al., 2006; Deater-Deckard et al., 2005; Fernandes et al., 2020), parents who are less judgmental, for example, those who engage in less critical parenting toward their child, tend to experience lower levels of stress in their parenting role. An individual's tendency to be non-judgmental regarding their present experience is a central aspect of mindfulness (Baer et al., 2006). Parental mindfulness is therefore one factor that may lessen a parent's susceptibility to parenting stress and/or increase the likelihood of their managing stressors in a more adaptive manner (Campbell et al., 2017).

### **What is mindfulness?**

In Western psychology, mindfulness has been defined as having two key components: awareness of the present moment through regulation of attentional focus, and an accepting or non-judgmental orientation towards present experience (Bishop et al., 2004). The term mindfulness is also used to refer to the process of attaining this aware and accepting state

(Dumas, 2005). For example, Kabat-Zinn (2015) describes awareness as arising from the application of mindfulness, or the paying of attention to whatever experiences are occurring, in an open, non-judgmental and non-reactive manner. As the capacity for attention and awareness is universally human, the inherent tendency to be mindful can be understood as a character trait which exists independently of any cultural tradition or training (Brown & Ryan, 2003; Kabat-Zinn, 2003). An individual's ability to remain aware of the present moment and in contact with their experience in that moment is thought to lessen automatic reactivity and thus allow for *conscious* responding to the experience (Brown et al., 2007).

For measurement purposes, the construct of mindfulness has been broken into five facets (Baer et al., 2006), each representing a skill involved in its practice: (1) Non-reactivity to Inner Experience involves perceiving inner experiences such as thoughts and emotions, without becoming overly attached to or caught up in those experiences; (2) Observing involves attending to or noticing internal and external stimuli; (3) Acting with Awareness refers to the ability to act consciously, rather than automatically, in the present moment; (4) Describing involves the ability to use language to describe experiences; finally, (5) Non-judgment of Inner Experience is the ability to accept thoughts and emotions as they are, without labelling or evaluating them (Baer et al., 2006). These mindfulness skills can be developed through meditation practice (Kiken et al., 2015). In a typical practice, the individual directs their attention to an internal or external target, such as their breath or a sound, and observes their experience of the target. Any wandering of attention from the target, or reaction to the experience, is non-judgmentally noted, and the individual's attention is continually returned to the target (Baer, 2003).

The practice of mindfulness has long been recognised within Eastern cultures as a way for the individual to develop a state of calmness and insight (Shonin et al., 2015). In the West, the benefits have been empirically documented over the last forty years, as



mindfulness-based therapies have been utilised to manage psychological difficulties including stress (Brown et al., 2007). Therapeutic programs like Mindfulness-based Stress Reduction (MBSR; Kabat-Zinn et al., 1992) and Mindfulness-based Cognitive Therapy (MBCT; Segal et al., 2013) have been found to reduce stress, anxiety and depression, and improve psychological well-being, in non-clinical and clinical populations (Hofmann et al., 2010; Khoury et al., 2015). The positive effects of mindfulness training are thought to be achieved through improvements in emotion regulation abilities (Curtiss et al., 2017; Wheeler et al., 2017).

### **Mindfulness in parenting**

Researchers and clinicians have extended their interest in the processes and benefits of intrapersonal or general mindfulness, to mindfulness in the context of social relationships, including parent-child interactions. Mindfulness in parenting was explored first by Jon and Myla Kabat-Zinn (1997). The Kabat-Zinns described mindful parenting as the ongoing practice of directing non-judgmental, non-reactive attention to the child, so as to be more present with the child, more aware of their needs, more accepting of the child's attributes, however "difficult" they may be, and more compassionately responsive to them (Kabat-Zinn & Kabat-Zinn, 1997, 2021). Dumas (2005) contrasted this mindful style of parenting with automatic parenting, in which parents react rather than respond to child behavior. Automatic parenting develops when a parent and child routinely relate to each other with particular beliefs, feelings and behaviors, such that the parent's responses become over-learned or habitual, instead of being deliberate, goal-oriented behaviors (Dumas, 2005). While automatic parenting is not inherently bad, it is problematic when parents and children routinely engage negatively with one another, to the point where negative interactions become the default interactions.

Building on the five-facet model of general mindfulness (Baer et al., 2006), and on the accounts of mindfulness in parenting by the Kabat-Zinns (Kabat-Zinn & Kabat-Zinn, 1997) and Dumas (2005), Duncan and colleagues (2007, 2009) developed a model of mindful parenting to show how mindfulness could be understood and applied to relationships between parents and children. The model comprises five dimensions believed to be important to the quality of parenting: (1) Listening with Full Attention relates to parents' focused attentiveness to their child's words and non-verbal cues and the awareness that comes from that attentiveness; (2) Non-judgmental Acceptance of Self and Child involves an acceptance by the parent of their own and their child's traits and behaviors, given the awareness of self and child that arises from focused attentiveness. In other words, acceptance is about truly recognising what is happening in a given situation and does not mean that a parent should accept all child behaviors; (3) Emotional Awareness of Self and Child concerns parents' ability to recognise and understand their own and their child's emotions and how emotions affect parenting behaviors; (4) Self-regulation in Parenting describes parents' ability to respond consciously to their child rather than reacting automatically to child behavior; and (5) Compassion for Self and Child refers to parents' desire to care for and comfort their child, and their propensity to show kindness towards themselves as parents (Duncan, 2007; Duncan et al., 2009).

It is argued that parents who embody more of the five hypothesized dimensions of mindful parenting (Duncan et al., 2009) will be more attuned to their child, better able to understand their child's needs, and to understand and interpret their present parenting experiences within the broader landscape of their relationship with their child (Dumas, 2005; Duncan et al., 2009). This may assist them to regulate their parenting behaviors, including disengaging from habitual and potentially unhelpful ways of evaluating their child or interacting with them. Instead, more mindful parents will be more able to consciously choose

behaviors that facilitate their longer-term parenting goals and a healthier parent-child relationship (Dumas, 2005; Duncan et al., 2009). Duncan and colleagues note that both parents and children will benefit when parents are more mindful in their parenting, given the transactional nature of parent-child relationships (Duncan et al., 2009; Sameroff & Mackenzie, 2003).

### **Relationships between mindful parenting, parenting stress and child mental health**

Based on evidence of improved attentional processes following general mindfulness training, it has been hypothesized that the greater capacity of more mindful parents for present-moment attentiveness means they will be less likely to experience automatic stress responses to their child in challenging parenting situations (Bögels et al., 2010). It is further proposed that parents who are less stressed will engage in better quality parenting, contributing to improved mental health outcomes for children (Bögels et al., 2010; Parent et al., 2016). Correlational studies support these hypotheses. More mindful parents in both Western and Asian populations consistently report experiencing lower levels of parenting stress, whether recruited in community (Corthorn & Milicic, 2016; Moreira & Canavarro, 2018) or clinical contexts (Beer et al., 2013; Cheung et al., 2019). Mindful parenting is also positively related to indicators of better-quality parenting, including the emotional quality of the parent-child relationship (Moreira et al., 2020; Potharst et al., 2020; Zhang et al., 2019), more positive parenting behaviors (Dieleman et al., 2020; McKee et al., 2018) and less negative parenting behaviors (Parent et al., 2016).

More mindful parenting has also been consistently linked with better child and adolescent mental health, including greater well-being (Medeiros et al., 2016), better emotion regulation (Moreira & Canavarro, 2020; Zhang et al., 2019), less internalizing and externalizing problems (Beer et al., 2013; Geurtzen et al., 2015), and more prosocial behavior (Wong et al., 2019). Further, mindful parenting may be more closely related to child well-

being than other known parental risk factors for child mental health problems, since it has predicted child well-being after accounting for parent mental health and other parenting variables associated with child well-being, such as parental responsiveness, control and autonomy granting (Geurtzen et al., 2015; Medeiros et al., 2016).

### **Measuring mindful parenting**

Few tools for measuring mindful parenting are available to researchers. The Bangor Mindful Parenting Scale (BMPS; Jones et al., 2014) is a 15-item mindful parenting measure for use with parents of children with a developmental disability, based on the Five Facet Mindfulness Questionnaire (FFMQ; Baer et al., 2006). No studies have been published regarding its factor structure, but it is strongly correlated with the FFMQ (Jones et al., 2014). The BMPS has been used to measure mindful parenting in two intervention studies with parents of children with developmental disabilities (Jones et al., 2018; McGregor et al., 2020). In contrast, the 28-item Mindfulness in Parenting Questionnaire (MIPQ; McCaffrey et al., 2017) was developed with a community sample of parents of 2-16 year-old children ( $N = 203$ ). It has 2 dimensions: (1) Mindful discipline, which contains items regarding parents' emotional awareness, non-reactivity and goal-focus in parenting; and (2) Being in the moment with the child, which covers parents' child-focused attention, and understanding and acceptance of their child (McCaffrey et al.). No intervention studies utilizing the MIPQ were found.

The principal tool used to measure mindful parenting in the research literature is the Interpersonal Mindfulness in Parenting scale (IMP; Duncan, 2007; Duncan et al., 2009). The IMP was first developed as a 10-item scale, in a large sample of parents ( $N = 1276$ ) of adolescent children ( $M = 12.95$  years). Confirmatory factor analysis indicated a higher-order factor of mindful parenting, measured by eight of the original 10 items, with four facets: (1) Present-centred Attention; (2) Present-centred Emotional Awareness; (3) Non-judgmental

Acceptance; and (4) Non-reactivity. The internal consistency of the scale was adequate ( $\alpha = 0.72$ ), but lower ( $\alpha = 0.45$  to  $0.66$ ) for the 2-item sub-scales (Duncan, 2007). The IMP was then expanded to 31 items, intended to measure the 5 dimensions hypothesized by Duncan and colleagues in their development of a theoretical model of mindful parenting (Duncan et al., 2009). However, it is not known whether this expanded IMP measures the five proposed dimensions, as there are no published studies confirming the validity of this structure in an English-language population.

Validation studies conducted in non-English speaking populations have not supported the IMP's hypothesized five-factor structure. A Dutch version was tested in a large community sample of mothers of 12-15 year-old adolescents ( $M = 13.3$  years) (de Bruin et al., 2014). Exploratory and confirmatory factor analyses suggested six factors: (1) Listening with Full Attention (LFA), which was identical to the LFA factor proposed by Duncan et al. (2009); (2) Compassion for the Child (CC), which included child-focused items from the proposed Compassion for Self and Child (C-SC) and Non-judgmental Acceptance of Self and Child (NJA-SC) factors; (3) Non-judgmental Acceptance of Parental Functioning (NJAPF), which included items from the proposed NJA-SC and C-SC factors that were focused on parents; (4) Emotional Non-reactivity in Parenting (ENRP), which contained items from the proposed Self-regulation in Parenting (SRP), Emotional Awareness of Self and Child (EA-SC) and NJA-SC factors; (5) Emotional Awareness of the Child (EAC), which contained child-focused items from the proposed EA-SC factor; and (6) Emotional Awareness of Self (EAS), which contained items regarding parental emotion from the proposed SRP and NJA-SC factors. Items three and six from the original IMP were excluded due to poor psychometric properties. The resulting 29-item scale showed good fit ( $CFI = 0.96$ ,  $RMSEA = 0.05$ ) and internal consistency ( $\alpha = 0.89$ ). The Dutch-language IMP therefore differs from the original IMP by splitting items relating to emotional awareness, non-judgment and

compassion onto separate factors based on whether they are child- or parent-focused (de Bruin et al., 2014).

The IMP was next tested by Moreira and Canavarro (2017) with Portuguese-speaking community-recruited mothers of 1-18 year-old children ( $M = 5.86$  years). Factor analyses in this study suggested five factors. LFA, NJAPF, CC and EAC factors were obtained, which were identical or extremely similar in content to the corresponding factors from the Dutch study (de Bruin et al., 2014). The fifth factor was Self-regulation in Parenting (SRP), which combined four of the five items from the Dutch ENRP factor, and all four items from the Dutch EAS factor. As in the Dutch study, the original IMP items three and six were excluded because of low factor loadings. The resulting five-factor 29-item solution ( $CFI = 0.93$ ,  $RMSEA = 0.05$ ) was therefore very similar to the Dutch solution, in its separation of child- and parent-focussed items, but without a separate EAS factor (Moreira & Canavarro, 2017).

The IMP has also been utilised in non-Western countries. In a community sample of Hong Kong Chinese parents ( $N = 837$ ) of 2-19 year-old children ( $M = 7.59$  years), a well-fitting four-factor solution ( $CFI = 0.94$ ,  $RMSEA = 0.04$ ) based on 23 items was identified (Lo et al., 2018). Compassion for the Child consisted primarily of items from the Dutch CC and EAC factors. Non-judgmental Acceptance in Parenting contained three items from each of the Dutch NJAPF and ENRP factors. Emotional Awareness in Parenting contained all the items from the Dutch EAS factor, plus two additional items from the Dutch NJAPF factor. Finally, Listening with Full Attention contained four of the five items from this factor in the original, Dutch and Portuguese IMPs. Items 3 and 6 were amongst several other items excluded due to low inter-item reliability. Like the Dutch and Portuguese studies, the factors identified in this study maintained the separation of child- and parent-focussed items. However, unlike the Dutch and Portuguese studies, no separate factor relating to emotional awareness of the child emerged. This was suggested by Lo et al. (2018) to reflect cultural

differences, namely that it is usual for Chinese parents to teach children to suppress their emotions, particularly in social contexts.

In another community sample of mainland Chinese parents ( $n = 294$ ) of children aged 4-25 years, no meaningful model was found based on an initial exploratory factor analysis using all 31 items of the original Duncan et al. (2009) model. However, following deletion of one item and further amendment of item wording to suit Chinese readers, a 24-item four-factor model ( $CFI = .91$ ,  $SRMR = .05$ ,  $RMSEA = .04$ ) was identified and confirmed. Six items relating to acceptance of parental functioning were excluded because they did not discriminate the parents scoring highest and lowest on the overall scale. The four factors were somewhat different from those identified amongst Hong Kong Chinese parents. Interacting with Full Attention contained most items from the original LFA dimension, but also contained an item relating to awareness of how emotions affect parenting and an item relating to regretting parent actions in response to child misbehaviour. Compassion and Acceptance contained a mix of items from the original C-SC, NJA-SC and SRP dimensions. The third factor, Self-regulation in Parenting, also consisted of a mix of items from the original SRP, NJA-SC and EA-SC dimensions. Finally, Emotional Awareness of Child had the same 3 items as both the Dutch and Portuguese EAC factors. Pan et al. (2019) noted that there were differences in parenting between Hong Kong and mainland Chinese parents, such as Hong Kong parents being less warm and more controlling.

Finally, an 18-item six-factor solution was obtained for a Korean translation of the IMP, using principal components analysis followed by confirmatory factor analysis ( $CFI = 0.97$ ,  $RMSEA = 0.06$ ), in community-recruited parents with children of 1-18 years ( $n = 554$ ;  $M = 10.56$  years) and pre-school children of 3-5 years ( $n = 283$ ;  $M = 4.03$  years) (Kim et al., 2018). Insight into Effect of Mood contained three items, all relating to an awareness of parent mood and its effect on parenting, from the proposed EA-SC factor in the original IMP.

Listening with Full Attention also contained three items from the originally proposed LFA. Non-judgmental Acceptance of Parental Functioning, Emotional Self-regulation, Compassion for the Child and Noticing the Child's Feelings all contained three items each from the corresponding Dutch NJAPF, EAS, CC and EAC factors. Numerous items were deleted due to low factor loadings, being semantically unrelated to other items, or too complex, suggesting that the IMP does not necessarily translate well to all other languages. The Korean factors maintained the separation of parent- and child-related items and therefore more closely resembled the Dutch and Portuguese models than the original Duncan et al. (2009) model of the IMP (Kim et al., 2018).

The number of identified factors has varied across the psychometric studies described above. However, the analyses of translated versions of the IMP have consistently found that the items relating to emotional awareness, non-judgment and compassion load onto different factors for parents and children, unlike the theoretical model proposed by Duncan et al. (2009), which combines parent- and child-focused items. This suggests that the five-dimension model proposed by Duncan et al. may not accurately reflect the construct of mindful parenting measured by the IMP. In addition, several of the reviewed studies tested the IMP in samples of parents with children ranging widely in age from infancy to adolescence. Although the parenting qualities embodied by the IMP are thought to be relevant for parenting children of different ages (Duncan et al., 2009), the IMP contains several items that appear to assume the child has verbal skills, so it is unclear whether it is appropriate for use with parents of pre-verbal infants.

### **Mindfulness programs for parents**

Like general mindfulness, the skills associated with mindful parenting can be developed. Mindfulness-based programs specifically for parents were first offered approximately 15 years ago to parents of children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and



other developmental disabilities (Singh et al., 2006). The behavioral training programs which were then available to parents focussed upon unwanted child behaviors and taught specific skills to parents, to help them manage or prevent those unwanted behaviors. In contrast, it was proposed that mindful parenting training could improve family relationships and benefit children through transformational change in *parents* (Maloney & Altmaier, 2007; Singh et al., 2006). In other words, since the capacity for parental self-regulation is fundamental to good outcomes for a child (Sanders & Mazzucchelli, 2013), it was argued that the benefits of mindful parenting training may spill over from parent to child (Singh et al., 2020), without the need to teach specific behavior management skills. Although some programs weave mindfulness into behavioral parent training programs (for example, Coatsworth et al., 2010), this thesis is limited to considering programs that are primarily mindfulness-based, that is, they do not include substantial elements of other forms of training for parents.

The content of mindfulness-based programs for parents varies across different research groups. Some studies have used the MBSR program (Kabat-Zinn et al., 1992), without adaptation, with parents of children with ASD (Lewallen & Neece, 2015; Neece, 2014). Other studies have used programs adapted from MBSR and MBCT (for example, Bögels et al., 2008; Corthorn, 2018). These adapted programs have the same foundations of mindfulness as MBSR and MBCT, such as present-moment awareness and non-judgmental acceptance, but are tailored to address particular issues or stressors faced by parents. For example, the mindful parenting program developed from MBSR and MBCT by Bögels and Restifo (2013) incorporates elements of schema theory and therapy (Young, Klosko, & Weishaar, 2003), to demonstrate to parents how the parenting they received as a child might impact their own parenting and how they might start to free themselves from unhelpful patterns of behavior in difficult parenting situations.

The program developed by Bögels and Restifo (2013) is one of the most widely used mindful parenting programs. Broad themes explored with parents in the eight core sessions of this program are: (1) Automatic parenting: parenting stress and routine daily interactions with children can trigger automatic parenting, including the fight/flight/freeze response to stress; (2) Beginner's mind: turning off automatic parenting allows a broader and less judgmental perspective of the child, which may help parents adopt a kinder attitude towards themselves and their child; (3) Reconnecting with the body: tuning in to the body develops present-moment awareness, including of parents' own emotional state. Self-compassion is introduced as an alternative response to parents' tendency to be harsh with themselves for perceived parenting failures; (4) Responding versus reacting: awareness of parents' habitual patterns of responding to parenting stress decreases automatic reacting and increases the ability to pause and consciously respond to a child; (5) Parenting patterns: parents learn how their own childhood affects their current parenting, and how to tolerate strong emotions that arise in difficult parenting situations, so they may choose different ways of responding; (6) Conflict and repair: parent-child conflict is inevitable, but relationships can be repaired by the parent; (7) Limit-setting and compassion: understanding limit-setting as a form of compassion, tolerating the strong emotions associated with limit-setting and practicing loving-kindness to soften parents' attitudes towards themselves and their child; (8) Mindful parenting as a process: parents reflect on what they have learned and consider how they might continue the process of mindful parenting.

In keeping with the aim of benefitting families by fostering change in parents, many studies of mindful parenting programs have provided mindfulness training only to parents (for example, Eames et al., 2015). However, studies involving families with adolescent children or children with attention deficit and hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), have generally augmented their programs by running mindfulness sessions for children in parallel to those

provided to their parents (Bögels et al., 2008; Zhang et al., 2017). Almost all studies of mindfulness programs for parents deliver training in an in-person, group format (Bögels et al., 2008; Neece, 2014). However, an online version of a mindful parenting program has recently been offered to parents, in which training is provided in a video format that parents can access individually, at a time that suits them (Boekhorst et al., 2020; Potharst et al., 2019). Mindfulness programs for parents have been studied in parents of children with and without clinical diagnoses, although there has been a strong emphasis on clinical programs (Kil & Antonacci, 2020).

Parents who attend mindfulness programs designed specifically for parents typically increase their levels of mindful parenting immediately after the program and maintain these improvements up to a year later (Haydicky et al., 2015; Meppelink et al., 2016; Ridderinkhof et al., 2017). In most studies parents have self-reported their level of mindful parenting, but this self-report is positively correlated with independent observations of the behaviors of parents with infants and adolescents, including the quality of parent-child interactions (Duncan et al., 2015; Potharst et al., 2020). Improvements in mindful parenting are therefore apparent to others, as might be expected given the interpersonal aspects of mindfulness in parenting, such as listening attentively (Duncan et al., 2009). Although individuals who are higher in general mindfulness also tend to be more mindful in their parenting (Corthorn & Milicic, 2016; Parent et al., 2020), greater general mindfulness does not consistently predict positive parenting behaviors or improvements in child outcomes (Meppelink et al., 2016; Neece, 2014; Parent et al., 2016; cf. Boekhorst et al., 2020). Accordingly, parents who wish to become more mindful to improve the relationship with their child, or their child's well-being, should seek mindfulness training that is specific to the parenting setting (Meppelink et al., 2016; Singh et al., 2020). In fact, mindful parenting training is likely to be particularly useful for these treatment-seeking parents, because their lower level of mindful parenting

differentiates them from non-treatment seeking parents in the community, even after considering parent mental health and various other parenting variables (Emerson et al., 2021).

## **Outcomes of mindful parenting programs for parents and children**

### ***Parenting stress***

Numerous studies have investigated whether mindfulness training reduces parenting stress in parents of children with mental health problems. Parents of children and adolescents with primary externalizing disorders such as ASD (Neece, 2014) and ADHD (Haydicky et al., 2015) have reported small to large reductions in parenting stress following mindful parenting programs. Similar results have been reported by groups of parents whose children have a range of primary diagnoses, including both externalizing and internalizing disorders (Bögels et al., 2014; Emerson et al., 2019a). However, no published studies have investigated whether mindfulness training reduces parenting stress for parents of children whose primary diagnoses are for internalizing disorders only. In some clinical studies, parenting stress was reduced immediately after training and at follow-up (Potharst et al., 2018a), while in others a significant reduction was found only at follow-up (Haydicky et al., 2015; Potharst et al., 2017; Potharst et al., 2018b; van der Oord et al., 2012). In a small number of these studies, parents reported no reduction in parenting stress (Jones et al., 2018; Zhang et al., 2017).

A limited number of studies have also investigated if mindfulness training can benefit parents of children with no mental health diagnosis. Following an online mindful parenting program for mothers of pre-school aged children, who self-reported elevated parenting stress, mothers in the mindfulness group ( $n = 43$ ) reported a small within-group reduction in that stress at follow-up (Potharst et al., 2019). In contrast, no reduction in parenting stress was reported by two groups of socio-economically disadvantaged parents after they attended a mindful parenting program (Eames et al., 2015; Maloney & Altmaier, 2007). The insignificant results in these two studies may have been due to their small sample sizes ( $N =$

23 and  $N = 12$ , respectively). However, pre-intervention clinical status of parents or children could also affect results. For example, if parents of non-clinical children have lower baseline parenting stress, they may not be as likely to benefit from an intervention. It is also possible that the measures used in these studies picked up general stress associated with the low socio-economic status of these families, which the mindful parenting intervention did not effectively reduce.

While most studies of mindfulness programs for clinical and community-recruited parents have utilised a single group design, a few have included separate waitlist or active control groups. In some waitlist-controlled studies, larger reductions in parenting stress have been reported for the mindfulness groups, in parents of children with ADHD or ASD (Lo et al., 2017b; Neece, 2014) and community-recruited parents (Corthorn, 2018). However, in two other studies involving non-clinical children of parents with a history of depression (Mann et al., 2016) or with self-reported elevated parenting stress (Potharst et al., 2019), no significant between-group difference in parenting stress was found. In the only two studies using active controls, larger reductions in parenting stress were reported in the mindfulness group compared to an education group for parents with self-reported elevated parenting stress (Chaplin et al., 2018) and a skills-training group for parents of children with developmental disorders (Ferraioli & Harris, 2013).

On the whole, the evidence suggests that mindfulness programs for parents may result in reduced parenting stress. However, only two controlled studies (Chaplin et al., 2018; Corthorn, 2018) explicitly measured mindful parenting, so although both these studies found it did increase after the program, there is limited evidence that increases in mindful parenting are responsible for reductions in parenting stress. It is also unclear whether the reduction in parenting stress after a mindful parenting program depends upon the nature or severity of the child's mental health problem. All clinical intervention studies measuring parenting stress as

an outcome were conducted with families where either all or the great majority of children had primary externalizing disorders. As there are no studies measuring parenting stress specifically in parents of children with primary internalizing disorders, it is not known whether mindful parenting programs reduce stress for this group of parents. The position is also unclear for parents of children without a mental health diagnosis, due to the more variable results from the non-clinical studies.

### ***Parenting quality***

Intervention studies have also investigated whether mindfulness training for parents can improve parenting quality, by increasing positive parenting practices. In mothers referred for parenting difficulties with their 0-18 month-old babies, parental responsiveness and affection improved after a mindful parenting program, but no change was reported in parental attention to the baby (Potharst et al., 2017). Similarly, in mothers experiencing parenting difficulties with their 18-48 month-old toddlers, observational assessment confirmed moderate improvements in maternal sensitivity and acceptance towards the child (Potharst et al., 2018b). For parents of older children ( $M = 10.7$  years) with a range of mental health diagnoses, which were primarily externalizing disorders, there were small to moderate improvements in parental encouragement of child autonomy, but no significant change in acceptance of the child (Bögels et al., 2014). Finally, for a group of parents of adolescents with ADHD, a non-significant improvement in family functioning, including parent-child communication, was reported (Haydicky et al., 2015). However, although non-significant, possibly due to the small number of families in this study ( $N = 15$ ), the moderate size of the improvement ( $d = 0.47$ ) suggests it was clinically relevant.

There is also evidence that parents of children who have mental health problems, and parents experiencing other parenting difficulties, reduce their negative parenting practices after mindfulness programs. For example, parents of children and adolescents, the majority of

whom had externalizing disorders, reported small to moderate reductions in over-reactivity (Emerson et al., 2019a; Potharst et al., 2018a; van der Oord et al., 2012), rejection (Bögels et al., 2014; Potharst et al., 2017), hostility (Potharst et al., 2017), laxness (de Bruin et al., 2015), verbosity (de Bruin et al., 2015), overprotection (Bögels et al., 2014) and experiential avoidance (Emerson et al., 2019a). Randomised controlled studies have also found greater reductions in negativity and over-reactivity for self-reported stressed parents, following mindfulness groups compared to parent-education or waitlist control groups (Chaplin et al., 2018; Potharst et al., 2019). However, several other studies have reported no reductions in parental over-reactivity, laxness or verbosity in stressed parents of toddlers (Potharst et al., 2018b), or in parents with children or adolescents with ADHD (van der Oord et al., 2012) or ASD (de Bruin et al., 2015), possibly due to low sample sizes ( $N = 11$  to  $N = 29$ ).

Overall, the intervention studies support the correlational research showing that more mindful parenting is associated with higher quality parenting, but the research has not typically examined which aspects of improved parenting predict improved child outcomes. One study has found that reduced parental over-reactivity accounts for improvements in child externalizing symptoms, while reduced parental experiential avoidance partially accounts for improvements in child internalizing symptoms (Emerson et al., 2019a). As most intervention studies assessing parenting quality have been conducted with families whose children have mental health diagnoses, it is not clear whether parenting quality would be improved in non-clinical families. As was the case with parenting stress, the studies that assessed parenting quality amongst clinical families were done with families where all or most of children had externalizing disorders. No studies were identified that measured changes in parenting quality specifically in families of children with primary internalizing disorders. There are also very few studies using randomized controlled designs to investigate parenting quality variables, and only one of these studies (Chaplin et al., 2018) reported on changes in mindful parenting.

Therefore, as with parenting stress, there is limited evidence that increases in mindful parenting are responsible for improvements in parenting quality observed after mindful parenting programs.

### ***Child mental health outcomes***

A number of studies have looked at whether mindfulness programs for parents result in better child outcomes, across internalizing, externalizing, social and cognitive domains of functioning. Small to large post-program reductions in child externalizing problems have been reported in several studies, with these reductions generally maintained at follow-up (Bögels et al., 2014; Haydicky et al., 2015; Meppelink et al., 2016; Zhang et al., 2017). However, some studies of children with ASD have reported no reduction in externalizing symptoms (de Bruin et al., 2015; Jones et al., 2018). The reductions have been reported by both parents (Bögels et al., 2014) and children (Ridderinkhof et al., 2017), who typically had primary diagnoses of disorders including ASD and ADHD, although reductions in externalizing problems have also been reported by parents of non-clinical children (Mann et al., 2016). In the few waitlist-controlled studies that have been conducted, child externalizing problems have reduced more for mindfulness intervention groups than for waitlist groups, in both community-recruited children and those with primary externalizing disorders (Lo et al., 2017b; Mann et al., 2016; Neece, 2014). However, one controlled trial for families of children with developmental disorders found no difference between groups (Lo et al., 2017a).

Small to moderate improvements in child internalizing outcomes have also been reported after mindful parenting programs by parents (Emerson et al., 2019a; Meppelink et al., 2016), and by adolescents with ASD (Ridderinkhof et al., 2017) or recovering from depression (Racey et al., 2017). Post-program improvements in internalizing problems were typically maintained at follow-up (Emerson et al., 2019a; Ridderinkhof et al., 2016).

However, in other studies, no improvements in internalizing symptoms were reported until



follow-up (de Bruin et al., 2015; Haydicky et al., 2015), making it unclear whether the improvements were due to the program or some other factor impacting with the passage of time. Two small studies involving adolescents with primary externalizing disorders found moderate-sized improvements in internalizing problems, although these gains were non-significant, potentially due to their small sample size ( $N = 14$  families, Bögels et al., 2008;  $N = 10$  families, van de Weijer-Bergsma et al., 2012). Of three waitlist-controlled trials, two found the co-morbid internalizing problems of children with ADHD or ASD reduced more when their parents were in the mindfulness intervention group (Lo et al., 2017b; McGregor et al., 2020), while one found no difference between groups (Neece, 2014).

With respect to cognitive outcomes for children, some studies have reported fewer attention problems post-intervention and at follow-up (Ridderinkhof et al., 2017), while others have found no change (Haydicky et al., 2015). No significant changes have been found in metacognitive function (Zhang et al., 2017) or learning difficulties (Haydicky et al., 2015). Two waitlist-controlled trials have addressed cognitive outcomes. One study of school-aged children with ADHD found greater improvements in children's executive function for the intervention group (Lo et al., 2017b), while the other study with pre-school aged children with ASD found a moderate ( $d = 0.71$ ), albeit non-significant, difference in favour of the mindfulness group (Neece, 2014). Finally, some studies have found improved social outcomes for children after mindfulness training for parents (Bögels et al., 2008; Haydicky et al., 2015; Lewallen & Neece, 2015), while others have not (de Bruin et al., 2015; Jones et al., 2018).

The results of the studies reviewed above have been mixed, but overall, mindful parenting programs are associated with, and may improve, child mental health. Some of the studies provided separate mindfulness training to children (for example, Haydicky et al., 2015; Racey et al., 2017), as well as to their parents, so in those studies, changes in child

outcomes could have resulted from the mindfulness training provided to the parent, the child or both. The majority of studies assessing child outcomes have been conducted with parents of clinic-referred children, with primary externalizing disorders such as ADHD or ASD. A small number of studies have involved children with a range of primary diagnoses, but within those studies, most children had a primary externalizing disorder (for example, Bögels et al., 2014; Emerson et al., 2019a). Only one study has been conducted solely with parents whose child had a primary internalizing disorder (Racey et al., 2017). The findings of most studies regarding changes in internalizing symptoms therefore relate to co-morbid internalizing symptoms, leaving it unclear whether mindful parenting programs would consistently reduce primary internalizing symptoms.

## **Current research questions**

### ***Child internalizing problems***

Most studies of mindfulness programs for parents have focused on parents of children with primary externalizing disorders, perhaps because parenting stress tends to be highest in parents of children with disorders such as ASD (Barroso et al., 2018). However, parents of children with primary internalizing problems also experience elevated parenting stress (Vaughan et al., 2012), for example having to cope with frequent or persistent withdrawn or anxious mood states, or child attempts to avoid anxiety-inducing situations. Despite this, there is a notable absence of research on mindful parenting programs for families of children with primary internalizing difficulties. While numerous studies have reported on the co-morbid internalizing problems of children with primary externalizing disorders, some of those children will have developed internalizing problems as a result of their externalizing problems, for example when these problems lead to social rejection or poor performance at school (Willner et al., 2016). In contrast, the risk factors for children with primary internalizing problems include a genetic vulnerability to internalizing problems, or continued

exposure to unhelpful parenting behaviors such as overprotectiveness (Rapee, 2012). If mindful parenting programs impact the risk factors for internalizing problems for these two groups of children differently, then they may also have different effects upon their internalizing problems. Further research is needed to confirm the impact of mindful parenting programs for families of children who suffer from primary internalizing problems.

### ***Child clinical status and age***

The above review suggests that mindfulness programs for parents reduce parenting stress, and improve parenting quality and child mental health, although there is some variability in the results of the reviewed studies. This may relate in part to the clinical status of parents attending the program, or their children. There are relatively few studies of community-recruited families, and the results of these studies have been more mixed than for clinical studies. Parents or children with higher levels of baseline functioning may report more variable results because they have less room for improvement. Child age may also be a factor. Many programs have been attended by parents of children ranging widely in age (for example, 2-21 years in Bögels et al., 2014). Since children's needs vary across developmental stages (Karavasilis et al., 2003), these programs may impact families with children at various stages differently. There is currently no systematic or quantitative evaluation of the data on outcomes of mindfulness training for parents. Such an evaluation would be helpful, to accurately summarize the available results and to identify whether factors such as clinical status or child age do affect program outcomes. This information is important in deciding whether mindful parenting programs should be provided for parents only in a clinical context, or more widely in the community, and whether they should be tailored for parents depending on child age.

## ***Validation of the IMP***

Although almost all the available research uses the IMP to measure mindful parenting, there is no published evidence regarding the factor structure of the English-language version of the 31-item IMP. Given the discrepancy between the theoretical model of mindful parenting and the empirically established models measured by translated versions of the IMP, and the question as to the IMPs suitability for parents of infants, there is a clear need to validate the 31-item IMP in an English-language population, to establish an appropriate model for this population, and determine whether it is suitable for parents of infants as well as older children.

### **Thesis aims**

The goal of this thesis is to contribute to our understanding of whether mindful parenting programs reduce parenting stress and child psychological problems, and how these programs might deliver benefits to children. This will be done by addressing the gaps in the literature outlined above, in particular the lack of research regarding the outcomes of mindful parenting programs for families of children with primary internalizing problems. The specific aims of this thesis are:

1. to systematically and quantitatively evaluate the existing evidence for the impact of mindful parenting programs on parenting stress and child mental health and to establish whether clinical status or child age affects those outcomes (Chapter 2);
2. to empirically validate the IMP in an English-language group of parents of children and infants, to establish whether the model of mindful parenting hypothesized by Duncan et al. (2009) is appropriate for use in these populations (Chapter 3);
3. using an empirically validated model of mindful parenting, to examine for parents of children and infants the relationships between mindful parenting, child internalizing problems and parenting variables that might contribute to or maintain child internalizing

problems, so as to identify parent factors that might explain how mindful parenting reduces child internalizing problems (Chapter 4); and

4. to investigate whether mindful parenting programs for families of children with primary internalizing concerns reduce parenting stress and child internalizing problems and improve parent factors that could explain the relationship between mindful parenting and child internalizing problems (Chapter 5).

## **CHAPTER TWO. Systematic review and meta-analysis**

### **A systematic review and meta-analysis regarding the effect of mindfulness interventions for parents on parenting stress and youth psychological outcomes**

Chapter 2 contains a systematic review of the research on mindful parenting interventions and a meta-analysis of results from intervention studies for parenting stress and child psychological outcomes.

This Chapter reproduces the text from the published article referred to below (Appendix A1), with minor amendments made to the published version to ensure that the format of Chapter 2 is consistent with the layout of this thesis.

Burgdorf, V., Szabó, M., & Abbott, M. J. (2019). The effect of mindfulness interventions for parents on parenting stress and youth psychological outcomes: A systematic review and meta-analysis. *Frontiers in Psychology, 10*:1336. doi: 10.3389/fpsyg.2019.01336

## Abstract

**Background:** The psychological well-being of parents and children is compromised in families characterized by greater parenting stress. As parental mindfulness is associated with lower parenting stress, a growing number of studies have investigated whether mindfulness interventions can improve outcomes for families. This systematic review and meta-analysis evaluates the effectiveness of mindfulness interventions for parents, in reducing parenting stress and improving youth psychological outcomes.

**Methods:** A literature search for peer-reviewed articles and dissertations was conducted in accordance with PRISMA guidelines in the PsycInfo, Medline, PubMed, CINAHL, Web of Science, Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials, and ProQuest Dissertations & Theses databases. Studies were included if they reported on a mindfulness-based intervention delivered in person to parents with the primary aim of reducing parenting stress or improving youth psychological outcomes.

**Results:** Twenty-five independent studies were included in the review. Eighteen studies used a single group design and six were randomized controlled trials. Within-groups, meta-analysis indicated a small, post-intervention reduction in parenting stress ( $g = 0.34$ ), growing to a moderate reduction at 2-month follow-up ( $g = 0.53$ ). Overall, there was a small improvement in youth outcomes ( $g = 0.27$ ). Neither youth age or clinical status, nor time in mindfulness training, moderated parenting stress or overall youth outcome effects. Youth outcomes were not moderated by intervention group attendees. Change in parenting stress predicted change in youth externalizing and cognitive effects, but not internalizing effects. In controlled studies, parenting stress reduced more in mindfulness groups than control groups ( $g = 0.44$ ). Overall, risk of bias was assessed as serious.

**Conclusions:** Mindfulness interventions for parents may reduce parenting stress and improve youth psychological functioning. While improvements in youth externalizing and cognitive

outcomes may be explained by reductions in parenting stress, it appears that other parenting factors may contribute to improvements in youth internalizing outcomes. Methodological weaknesses in the reviewed literature prevent firm conclusions from being drawn regarding effectiveness. Future research should address these methodological issues before mindfulness interventions for parents are recommended as an effective treatment option for parents or their children.



## Introduction

Parenting stress is associated with negative outcomes for parents and their children (Davis & Carter, 2008; Deater-Deckard et al., 2016). Recently, several studies have linked lower parenting stress with higher parental mindfulness (e.g., Parent et al., 2016; Campbell et al., 2017). Accordingly, a growing number of studies have delivered mindfulness-based interventions to parents, with the aim of reducing parenting stress and improving psychological outcomes for youth (e.g., Zhang et al., 2017; Jones et al., 2018). However, no quantitative synthesis of the literature on the effectiveness of such interventions is currently available. This review and meta-analysis was conducted to evaluate the effectiveness of mindfulness interventions for parents, in reducing parenting stress and improving youth psychological outcomes.

Parents who experience higher parenting stress report poorer psychological well-being (Lavee et al., 1996), more negative affect and less positive affect (Deater-Deckard et al., 2016), and lower marital quality (Robinson & Neece, 2015). In families characterized by greater parenting stress, children have more internalizing and externalizing problems (Huth-Bocks & Hughes, 2007; Davis & Carter, 2008; Robinson & Neece, 2015), poorer cognitive skills such as executive function (de Cock et al., 2017) and more social and interpersonal difficulties (Anthony et al., 2005). Greater parenting stress is also associated with negative parenting behaviors, including harsh discipline (Venta et al., 2016) and hostility (McMahon & Meins, 2012), which have been shown to contribute to poorer child and adolescent psychological outcomes (Rominov et al., 2016; Piquart, 2017). Managing parenting stress is therefore important for the psychological health of parents and their children. It has been suggested that incorporating mindfulness into the parent-child relationship may be one way of achieving this goal (Kabat-Zinn & Kabat-Zinn, 1997; Dumas, 2005; Duncan et al., 2009; Bögels et al., 2010).

In the context of contemporary Western psychology, mindfulness is typically described as a psychological process of bringing non-judgmental awareness to experiences occurring in the present moment (Kabat-Zinn, 2015). Individuals differ in their disposition for mindfulness but can develop their skills through regular practice (Kabat-Zinn, 2003, 2015; Baer et al., 2006). The application of mindfulness to parenting was first described by Kabat-Zinn and Kabat-Zinn (1997). These authors defined mindful parenting as paying non-judgmental, non-reactive attention to each moment with the child, so the parent is aware of their child's needs in any moment. Building on this account, Duncan et al. (2009) developed a model of mindful parenting comprising five dimensions: listening to the child with full attention, non-judgmental acceptance of self and child, emotional awareness of self and child, self-regulation in parenting, and compassion for self and child. Mindful parents reduce their use of automatic but unhelpful ways of evaluating or interacting with their child, thus making way for more positive parent-child relationships (Dumas, 2005; Duncan et al., 2009). For example, mindfulness can assist parents to break a habitual pattern of automatically reacting with anger to a child's tantrum, which is likely to elicit further negative affect from the child (Dumas, 2005).

In light of these ideas, mindfulness-based interventions such as the 8-week Mindfulness-based Stress Reduction program (MBSR; Kabat-Zinn et al., 1992), have been offered to parents who experience high levels of stress, anxiety, or depression (Bazzano et al., 2015). Other researchers have adapted the MBSR program specifically to the parenting context (Bögels et al., 2014; Eames et al., 2015). These mindful parenting programs are based on the same principles of mindfulness as MBSR and follow a similar session structure. MBSR for parents and mindful parenting programs both aim to improve outcomes for families, particularly reducing parenting stress (for example, Neece, 2014; Chaplin et al., 2018). However, mindful parenting programs focus specifically on the stressors faced by

parents and the patterns of interaction they have with their children. For example, the well-known “observing a raisin” exercise is used in MBSR to illustrate the concept of stepping out of automatic pilot. In one mindful parenting course (Bögels & Restifo, 2014), this exercise is followed by a homework practice in which parents mindfully observe their child, using the skills they learnt while observing a raisin.

In the past decade, a number of studies have explored the effects of both MBSR and mindful parenting interventions on parenting stress. Following MBSR programs, reductions in parenting stress were reported by parents of pre-school aged children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and other developmental delays (Chan & Neece, 2018). In a similar clinical sample, the reductions in parenting stress were larger for the MBSR group than a waitlist control group (Neece, 2014). Mindful parenting interventions have been made available in community, as well as in clinical settings. In two small studies of community-recruited parents, no reduction in parenting stress was found following mindful parenting training (Maloney & Altmaier, 2007; Eames et al., 2015), whilst in a larger community study, a reduction was reported (Potharst et al., 2018a). The difference in sample sizes may account for the contrasting findings in these studies. In the clinical context, parents of children and adolescents with a range of externalizing and internalizing disorders (Bögels et al., 2014; Ridderinkhof et al., 2017) reported both immediate and maintained reductions in parenting stress following mindful parenting interventions. In contrast, parents of children with Attention Deficit and Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) reported a moderate reduction in parenting stress only at 2-month follow-up (Van der Oord et al., 2012). The majority of mindful parenting intervention studies have used a single group design. However, a small number of controlled studies have found bigger reductions in parenting stress in mindful parenting groups than control groups, in community and clinical settings (Ferraioli & Harris, 2013; Lo et al., 2017a; Corthorn, 2018). In sum, although results are mixed, MBSR and

mindful parenting interventions appear to be associated with reduced levels of parenting stress, both in community and clinical contexts.

Studies of MBSR and mindful parenting have also investigated outcomes for the children of parents who attended the interventions. Most studies investigated internalizing and externalizing symptoms, which are the most common psychological problems in youth (Bayer et al., 2008). A number of studies also examined cognitive and social domains of functioning, both of which are related to important longer-term problems, such as poorer academic achievement (Malecki & Elliott, 2002; Daley & Birchwood, 2010). Following their parents' attendance at MBSR, pre-school aged children with ASD and other developmental delays showed significant improvements in cognitive, externalizing and social outcomes (Lewallen & Neece, 2015; Neece, 2014). Following mindful parenting training, small to moderate reductions in youth internalizing problems have been reported by youth with a range of mental health problems and their parents (Bögels et al., 2014; Haydicky et al., 2015; Racey et al., 2017). In contrast, in a study involving 10 adolescents with ADHD, no significant improvements in adolescent internalizing problems were reported (van de Weijer-Bergsma et al., 2012). Similarly, externalizing problems have been reported to reduce after mindful parenting interventions by parents (Bögels et al., 2014; Meppelink et al., 2016) and youth (Bögels et al., 2008; Ridderinkhof et al., 2017) in some studies, but not in others (De Bruin et al., 2015; Jones et al., 2018). In relation to cognitive outcomes, parents have reported fewer attention problems (Ridderinkhof et al., 2017), but no reductions in metacognitive (Zhang et al., 2017) or learning problems (Haydicky et al., 2015). Finally, after mindful parenting interventions, youth social outcomes improved in some studies (Bögels et al., 2008; Haydicky et al., 2015) but not others (de Bruin et al., 2015; Jones et al., 2018). The results of the literature relating to youth outcomes are therefore mixed.

Considering the number of studies and the mixed results they report, a quantitative evaluation of the available data is needed. However, there are no published meta-analyses in this field of research. Further, although two narrative reviews have been conducted, neither of these focuses exclusively on mindfulness interventions delivered to parents. Harnett and Dawe (2012) reviewed 24 interventions incorporating mindfulness, for school students and their carers. Only two of those interventions were delivered to parents. Moreover, those two interventions were not primarily mindfulness interventions. Instead, they incorporated an element of mindfulness into existing behavioral skills programs. Townshend et al. (2016) reviewed seven randomized controlled trials (RCTs) of various interventions delivered to parents. Again, only two of the reviewed trials delivered interventions that were primarily mindfulness-based, while the others incorporated aspects of mindfulness in behavioral or emotion-coaching programs. A review focused upon mindfulness interventions for parents is therefore warranted. Accordingly, the aim of this review was to systematically and quantitatively evaluate the effectiveness of mindfulness interventions for parents. To reflect the range of outcomes covered in the existing literature, the outcomes of interest in this review were parenting stress, and youth functioning across internalizing, externalizing, cognitive and social domains. Due to the noted similarities between mindful parenting interventions and other mindfulness-based interventions such as MBSR for parents, we amalgamated these studies into a single group and will refer to them together as “mindfulness interventions for parents”.

## **Methods**

The Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) statement and checklist (Moher et al., 2009) were used to guide the conduct and reporting of this review.

## **Eligibility Criteria**

Studies were eligible for inclusion in the review if they reported on a mindfulness-based intervention delivered in person to parents, with a primary aim of reducing parenting stress or improving youth psychological outcomes. Studies that met this criterion that also delivered a parallel mindfulness intervention to a child of the participant parents were included. Studies were excluded if they reported on an intervention that was not a mindfulness-based intervention or if the intervention incorporated other forms of therapy or training such as behavioral parent training, acceptance and commitment therapy or cognitive therapy. Studies were also excluded if they used an individual case series or qualitative design.

## **Search Strategy and Information Sources**

A comprehensive literature search was conducted between 9 August and 11 October 2018, in the PsycInfo, Medline, PubMed, CINAHL, Web of Science, Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials and ProQuest Dissertations & Theses databases, for peer-reviewed articles and published dissertations indexed up to and including 30 September, 2018. In PsycInfo, we searched the database subject headings Mindfulness and Meditation, and the keywords mindful\* and meditation, in combination with the subject headings Parenting, Parents, Parenting Style, Parenting Skills, Parental Attitudes, Parent Training, Childrearing Attitudes, Childrearing Practices, Family Intervention and Family Therapy and the key words parent\*, child?rearing, family intervention\* and family therap\*. For the search, no limitations were placed on the language in which the study was reported. The reference lists of included articles were also searched for relevant studies, but no additional studies were identified in this way.

The database search was conducted by the first author. After removal of duplicates, a title and abstract screening of all articles was conducted by the first author to assess the

studies against the eligibility criteria. One-third of the articles were also screened independently by a Masters-level graduate student in clinical psychology. A full-text review of the short-listed articles was then conducted independently by both the first author and the same graduate student, with 92% agreement between the two reviewers on the selection of studies for inclusion in the review.

### **Data Extraction**

All data was extracted by the first author. The data extracted from each study included participant characteristics, youth age and gender, parent and youth psychopathology, study design and details of the intervention. These study details are presented in Table 1. Effect sizes reported by the study authors for parenting stress and youth psychological outcomes were also extracted and are included in Tables 2, 3 respectively. Quantitative data needed for calculation of effect sizes in the meta-analysis were also extracted. Where a study did not report the data required for calculation of effect sizes, they were requested by email from the corresponding author of the study. If no response was received, the study was included in the systematic review (in Tables 1-3), but not included in the quantitative analyses.

1 **Table 1**

2 *Details of included studies*

Study	Sample size and parents' gender	Youth age (range) in years and gender	Parent clinical status <sup>^</sup>	Youth clinical status and primary diagnosis	Study design and conditions	Intervention characteristics		
						Intervention program	Intervention group/s	Sessions
Bazzano et al. (2015)	N=66 parents/ caregivers (77% mothers/ female)	NR	Non-clinical	Clinical: ASD (59%), ID (21%), cerebral palsy (5%), Down syndrome (3%), other diagnoses (11%)	Uncontrolled trial: 1. MP	MBSR adapted for parents of children with disabilities	Parent/ caregiver group	8 weeks x 2h + 4h silent retreat; total 20h
Bögels et al. (2008)	N=14 parents (57% mothers) and 14 adolescents	M=14.4 (11-17)  57% boys	Clinical: DD (21%), PTSD (21%), ADHD (14%), PDD (14%), Asperger's (7%)	Clinical: ODD (43%), PDD (21%), ADHD (14%), CD (14%) ASD (7%)	WLC trial: 1. MP	MBCT adapted for parents	Parent group and separate adolescent mindfulness group	8 weeks x 1.5h; total 12h (for both parent and adolescent groups)
Bögels et al. (2014)	N=86 parents (89% mothers)	M=10.7 (2-21)  60% boys	Clinical: Parent-child relational problem (58%), DD (16%), adjustment disorder (8%), BD (2%), ADHD (1%), BPD (1%)	Clinical: ADHD (47%), ASD (21%), AD (7%), DD (5%), ODD (4%), LD (4%), CD (1%), schizophrenia (1%)	WLC trial: 1. MP	MP (Bögels & Restifo, 2013)	Parent group	8 weeks x 3h; total 24h
Chan & Neece (2018) <sup>#</sup>	N=80 parents (96% mothers)	M=4.18 (2.5-5)  71% boys	Non-clinical	Clinical: ASD (64%), other developmental delay (36%)	RCT: 1. MBSR 2. Wait list control	MBSR: MBSR program  Control: Nil (offered MBSR program after completion of waitlist period)	MBSR: Parent group  Control: Nil	MBSR: 8 weeks x 2h + 6h retreat; total 22h  Control: Nil

3



4 *Table 1 continued*

Study	Sample size and parents' gender	Youth age (range) in years and gender	Parent clinical status <sup>^</sup>	Youth clinical status and primary diagnosis	Study design and conditions	Intervention characteristics		
						Intervention program	Intervention group/s	Sessions
Chaplin et al. (2018)	N=100 mothers	M=14.04 (12-17) 48% boys	Non-clinical: self-reported parenting stress	Non-clinical: inclusion criteria did not require diagnosis or referral, but 53% of families receiving psychotherapy	RCT: 1. MP 2. Parent education control	MP: Parenting Mindfully (based on MBSR & Duncan et al., 2009)  Control: presentation, handouts on adolescent development and parenting, question time	MP: Parent group  Control: Parent group	MP: 8 weeks x 2h; total 16h  Control: 3 meetings x 30 min each
Corthorn (2018)	N=43 mothers	M=2.9 (intervention group) and M=3.0 (control group) Overall range = 2-5  Gender NR	Non-clinical	Non-clinical	Controlled trial: 1. MP 2. No treatment control	MP: MBSR adapted for parents  Control: Nil	MP: Parent group  Control: Nil	MP: 8 weeks x 2h; total 16h  Control: Nil
de Bruin et al. (2015)	N=29 parents (62% mothers) and 23 adolescents	M=15.8 (11-23) 74% boys	Non-clinical	Clinical: ASD (52%), PDD (48%)	Uncontrolled trial: 1. MP	MP (Bögels & Restifo, 2013)	Parent group and separate adolescent mindfulness group	9 weeks x 1.5h; total 13h (for both parent and adolescent groups)
Eames et al. (2015)	N=23 mothers	M=3.14 (1-6) 55% boys	Non-clinical: low socio-economic community	Non-clinical	Uncontrolled trial: 1. MP	Mindfulness-based wellbeing for parents (adapted from MBSR)	Parent group	8 weeks x 2h; total 16h

6 *Table 1 continued*

Study	Sample size and parents' gender	Youth age (range) in years and gender	Parent clinical status <sup>^</sup>	Youth clinical status and primary diagnosis	Study design and conditions	Intervention characteristics		
						Intervention program	Intervention group/s	Sessions
Ferraioli & Harris (2013)	N=15 parents (66% mothers)	NR (all under 18)	Non-clinical	Clinical: ASD (66%), PDD (34%)	RCT: 1. MP 2. Skills-based parent training  Participants matched on parenting stress scores.	MP: Mindfulness-based parent training (adapted from mindfulness module, Linehan, 1993)  Control: behavioral parent training for parents of children with ASD	MP: Parent group  Control: Parent group	MP: 8 weeks x 2h; total 16h  Control: 8 weeks x 2h; total 16h
Haydicky et al. (2015)	N=17 parents (94% mothers) and 18 adolescents	M=15.5 (13-18)  72% boys	Non-clinical	Clinical: ADHD	WLC trial: 1. MP	MP (adapted from Bögels et al., 2008)	Parent group and separate adolescent mindfulness group	8 weeks x 1.5h; total 12h (for both parent and adolescent groups)
Jones et al. (2018)	N=21 parents (86% mothers)	M=10.53 (4-16) Note: mean VABS functioning ability = 4.95  62% boys	Non-clinical	Clinical: ASD (76%), ID (10%), cerebral palsy (10%), Down's syndrome (5%)	Uncontrolled trial: 1. MP	Mindfulness-based wellbeing for parents (adapted from MBSR)	Parent group	8 weeks x 2h; total 16h
Lewallen & Neece (2015)#	N=24 mothers	M=3.40 (2.5-5)  67% boys	Non-clinical	Clinical: ASD (83%), other developmental delay (17%)	RCT: 1. MBSR 2. Wait list control	MBSR: MBSR program  Control: Nil (offered MBSR after waitlist)	MBSR: Parent group  Control: Nil	MBSR: 8 weeks x 2h + 6h retreat; total 22h  Control: Nil

7

8

9 *Table 1 continued*

Study	Sample size and parents' gender	Youth age (range) in years and gender	Parent clinical status <sup>^</sup>	Youth clinical status and primary diagnosis	Study design and conditions	Intervention characteristics		
						Intervention program	Intervention group/s	Sessions
Lo et al. (2017a)	N=180 parents (94% mothers)	NR (pre-school age) 77% boys	Non-clinical	Clinical: ASD (57%), developmental delay (28%), ADHD (7%), other diagnosis (8%)	RCT: 1. MP 2. No treatment control	MP: MP adapted from Bögels (2013) and Coatsworth et al. (2015)  Control: Nil (mindfulness workshop, after study)	MP: Parent group Control: Nil	MP: 6 weeks x 1.5h; total 9h  Control: Nil
Lo et al. (2017b)	N=100 parents (96% mothers)	M=6.25 (5-7) 83% boys	Non-clinical	Clinical: ADHD	RCT: 1. MP 2. Wait list control	MP: MP adapted from Bögels & Restifo (2014) & Coatsworth et al. (2010)  Control: Nil (offered MP after waitlist)	MP: Parent group and separate child mindfulness group  Control: Nil	MP: 6 weeks x 1.5h; total 9h (for parent groups); 8 weeks x 1h (for child groups).  Control: Nil
Maloney & Altmaier (2007)	N=12 parents (83% mothers) and 12 children	M=3.9 (2.75-6) Gender NR	Non-clinical: participants recently divorced or separated	Non-clinical	Uncontrolled trial: 1. MP	MP (Placone-Willey, 2002)	Parent group	12 weeks; session length NR; total 15h
Mann et al. (2016)	N=38 parents (95% mothers)	Mean NR (2-6) Gender NR	Non-clinical: history of depression ( $\geq 3$ episodes & in full/partial remission)	Non-clinical	RCT: 1. MP + usual care 2. Usual care control	MP: MBCT adapted for parents with history of depression  Control: usual care	MP: Parent group Control: Nil	MP: 8 weeks, session length & total hours NR  Control: Nil

11 *Table 1 continued*

Study	Sample size and parents' gender	Youth age (range) in years and gender	Parent clinical status <sup>^</sup>	Youth clinical status and primary diagnosis	Study design and conditions	Intervention characteristics		
						Intervention program	Intervention group/s	Sessions
Meppelink et al. (2016)	N=70 parents (93% mothers)	M=8.7 (range NR) 57% boys	Non-clinical	Clinical: ASD (29%), parent-child interaction problem (26%), ADHD (24%), AD (3%), ODD (1.5%), adjustment disorder (1.5%), other diagnosis (6%)	Uncontrolled trial: 1. MP	MP (Bögels & Restifo, 2014)	Parent group	8 weeks x 3h; total 24h
Neece (2014)	N=46 parents (78% mothers)	M=3.84 (2.5-5) 71% boys	Non-clinical	Clinical: ASD	RCT: 1. MBSR 2. Wait list control	MBSR: MBSR Control: Nil (offered MBSR after waitlist)	MBSR: Parent group Control: Nil	MBSR: 8 weeks x 2h + 6h retreat; total 22h Control: Nil
Potharst et al. (2017)	N=37 mothers	M=0.86 (0-1.5) 50% boys	Clinical: mental health disorder (84%) or referral for difficulties related to mothering	Non-clinical: sleeping problems (27%), excessive crying (18%)	Uncontrolled trial: 1. MP	MP adapted for mothers with a baby (Bögels et al., 2014)	Mother/baby group	8 weeks x 2h; total 16h
Potharst et al. (2018a) <sup>a</sup> Non-clinical setting	N=98 parents (82% mothers)	M=8.9 (0-35.3) Gender NR	Non-clinical, self-reported parenting stress	Non-clinical	WLC trial: 1. MP	MP shortened for non-clinical context (Bögels & Restifo, 2013)	Parent group	8 weeks x 2h; total 16h <sup>b</sup>
Potharst et al. (2018a) Clinical setting	N=89 parents (80% mothers)	M=11.7 (2.6-25.4) Gender NR	Non-clinical	Clinical: ADHD (31%), ASD (23%), DICA (10%), AD (5%), PTSD (4%), MD (1%), OCD (1%), ODD (1%), IED (1%), unknown diagnosis (21%)	Uncontrolled trial: MP	MP (Bögels & Restifo, 2013)	Parent group	8 weeks x 3h + 3h booster session, 8 weeks post-completion; total 27h <sup>c</sup>

12

13

Study	Sample size and parents' gender	Youth age (range) in years and gender	Parent clinical status <sup>^</sup>	Youth clinical status and primary diagnosis	Study design and conditions	Intervention characteristics		
						Intervention program	Intervention group/s	Sessions
Racey et al. (2017)	N=29 parents (97% mothers) and 25 adolescents	M=16.4 (14-18) 0% boys	Non-clinical: 50% parents had history of depression	Clinical: partially recovered from depressive episode	Uncontrolled trial: 1. MBCT	MBCT adapted for parents and youth	Parent group and separate adolescent mindfulness group	8 weeks (for both parent and adolescent groups); session length and total hours NR
Ridderinkhof et al. (2017)	N=74 parents (58% mothers) and 45 adolescents	M=13.03 (8-19) 80% boys	Non-clinical	Clinical: ASD (IQ ≥ 80)	Uncontrolled trial: 1. MP	MP adapted for parents of children with ASD from Bögels & Restifo (2014)	Parent group and separate adolescent mindfulness group	9 weeks x 1.5h (for both parent and adolescent groups) + 1x joint parent/adolescent booster session, 9 weeks post-completion; total 15h
Short et al. (2017)	N=59 mothers	NR (≤ 3) Gender NR	Clinical: in treatment for opioid and other substance-use disorders	Non-clinical	Uncontrolled trial: 1. MP	MP adapted from MBSR for parents with high rates of trauma	Parent group	12 weeks x 2h; total 24h
van de Weijer-Bergsma et al. (2012)	N=11 parents (55% mothers) and 10 adolescents	M=13.4 (11-15) 50% boys	Non-clinical	Clinical: ADHD	Uncontrolled trial: 1. MP	MP (Bögels et al., 2008 and van der Oord et al., 2012)	Parent group and separate adolescent mindfulness group	8 weeks x 1.5h (for both parent and child groups) + 1x joint parent/ adolescent booster session, 8 weeks post-completion; total ~13h
van der Oord et al. (2012)	N=22 parents (95% mothers) and 22 children	M=9.55 (8-12) 73% boys	Non-clinical	Clinical: ADHD	WLC trial: MP	MP adapted for parents of children with ADHD from Bögels et al. (2008) and Bögels et al. (2010)	Parent group and separate mindfulness group for children	8 weeks x 1.5h; total 12h (for both parent and child groups)

17 *Table 1 continued*

Study	Sample size and parents' gender	Youth age (range) in years and gender	Parent clinical status <sup>^</sup>	Youth clinical status and primary diagnosis	Study design and conditions	Intervention characteristics		
						Intervention program	Intervention group/s	Sessions
Voos (2017)	N=21 parents (71% mothers)	M=9.5 (range NR; <18) 91% boys	Non-clinical	Clinical: ASD	Uncontrolled trial: 1. MP	MP (Bögels & Restifo, 2013)	Parent group	8 weeks x 1.5h; total 12h
Xu (2017) <sup>#</sup>	N=32 parents (90% mothers)	M=4.68 (2.5-5) 71% boys	Non-clinical	Clinical: ASD (48%), ID or other developmental delay (36%), Down's syndrome (16%)	Uncontrolled trial: 1. MBSR	MBSR	Parent group	8 weeks x 2h + 6h retreat; total 22h
Zhang et al. (2017)	N=11 parents (64% mothers) and 11 children	M=9.5 (8-12) 73% boys	Non-clinical	Clinical: ADHD	Uncontrolled trial: 1. MP	MP (van der Oord et al., 2012; van de Weijer-Bergsma et al., 2012)	Parent group and separate child mindfulness group	8 weeks x 1.5h; total 12h (for both parent and child groups)

18 *Note.* <sup>^</sup>For both parent and youth clinical status, "Clinical" means that the participating parent or their child were selected for the study based on either a clinical diagnosis, or  
19 referral for clinical assistance, for a mental health difficulty. "Non-clinical" means the participating parents, or their child, were not selected for the study based on either a clinical  
20 diagnosis or referral for clinical assistance. A non-clinical group of parents or youth may still, therefore, include individuals who meet criteria for a psychiatric or physical health  
21 condition; NR, Not reported; MBSR, Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction (Kabat-Zinn et al., 1992); MBCT, Mindfulness-Based Cognitive Therapy (Segal et al., 2002);MP,  
22 mindful parenting; WLC, waitlist controlled; RCT, randomized, controlled trial; ASD, an autism spectrum disorder; ID, an intellectual disability; DD, a depressive disorder;  
23 PTSD, post-traumatic stress disorder; ADHD, attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder; PDD, pervasive developmental disorder; ODD, oppositional defiant disorder; CD, conduct  
24 disorder; BD, bipolar disorder; BPD, borderline personality disorder; AD, anxiety disorder; LD, learning disorder; OCD, obsessive compulsive disorder; MD, mood disorder; IED,  
25 intermittent explosive disorder; DICA, disorder of infancy, childhood or adolescence not otherwise specified; VABS, Vineland Adaptive Behavior Scales (Sparrow et al., 1984);  
26 <sup>#</sup>Chan & Neece (2018), Lewallen & Neece (2015), and Xu (2017) are included in this table for clarity, however these three studies appear to utilize samples of participants  
27 overlapping with Neece (2014); <sup>a</sup>Potharst et al. (2018a) included two separate streams of participants. One stream attended the intervention in non-clinical settings, the other  
28 attended in clinical settings. Study characteristics are reported separately for each setting, given they were independent from each other; <sup>b</sup>basic non-clinical program was 8 weeks x  
29 2h. However, there were 4 locations (A, B, C, and D) and some varied the basic program. B ran 2.5h sessions, D ran 3h sessions, and B and D offered a follow-up session; <sup>c</sup>basic  
30 clinical program was 8 weeks x 3h + 3h booster. This was run at 4 locations (E, F, G, and H). Location E adjusted the session length to 2.5h.

31

32 **Table 2**33 *Reported results of mindfulness intervention, for parenting stress*

Study	Parenting stress measure <sup>#</sup>	Within group results		Between group results	
		Pre-Post	Pre-Follow up <sup>^</sup>	Pre-Post	Pre-Follow up <sup>^</sup>
Bazzano et al. (2015)	PSS	NR <sup>a</sup> (+)	NR <sup>a</sup> (+)		
Bögels et al. (2014)	PSI, Competence scale	$d=0.44$ (+)	$d=0.47$ (+)		
Chaplin et al. (2018)	SIPA subscales:				
	Parent Life Restrictions			$d=0.53$ (+)	
	Parent Incompetence/Guilt			$d=-0.14$	
	Relationship with Partner			$d=0.59$ (+)	
Corthorn (2018)	PSI-SF			NR(+)	$d=0.66$ (+)
de Bruin et al. (2015)	PSI	$d=0.21$ (+)	$d=-0.01$		
Eames et al. (2015)	PSI-SF	$g=0.81$ <sup>b</sup>			
Ferraioli & Harris (2013)	PSI-SF	$d=2.03$ (+)	$d=1.01$	$d=1.59$ (+)	$d=0.63$
Haydicky et al. (2015)	SIPA	NR	$d=0.81$ (+)		
Jones et al. (2018)	QRS-PFP	$d=-0.12$			
Lo et al. (2017a)	PSI-SF			$d=0.34$ (+)	
Lo et al. (2017b)	PSI-SF			$d=0.19$ (+)	
	HRV Low frequency <sup>c</sup>			$d=0.00$	
Maloney & Altmaier (2007)	PSI-SF	$d=0.26$			
Mann et al. (2016)	PSI-SF			$d=0.40$ (4 mo.)	$d=0.40$ (9 mo.)
Neece (2014)	PSI-SF, Parental Distress scale	$d=0.70$ (+) <sup>d</sup>		$d=0.70$ (+)	
Potharst et al. (2017)	PSI, modified version	$d=0.25$	$d=0.44$ (+); $d=0.53$ (+) (1 yr.)		
Potharst et al. (2018a)	OBVL	$d=0.37$ (+)	$d=0.67$ (+)		
Ridderinkhof et al. (2017)	PSI, Competence scale	$d=0.21$ (+)	$d=0.39$ (+); $d=0.28$ (+) (1 yr.)		
Short et al. (2017)	PSI-SF	$d=0.04$			
van de Weijer-Bergsma et al. (2012)	PSI-SF	$d=-0.50$ <sup>M</sup> ; $d=0.70$ <sup>F</sup> (+)	$d=-0.20$ <sup>M</sup> ; $d=1.1$ <sup>F</sup> (+)		
van der Oord et al. (2012)	PSI-SF	NR (ns)	$d=0.57$ (+)		
Voos (2017)	PSI	NR	$d=0.94$ (+)		
Zhang et al. (2017)	PSI-SF	$d=-0.18$ (+)			

34 *Note.* <sup>#</sup> = all parenting stress effects are based upon the reports of the parent/s who attended the intervention, and  
35 therefore combine mother and father reports, except in the case of van de Weijer-Bergsma et al. (2012) which reports  
36 mother and father results separately; <sup>^</sup> = 8 week follow up, unless otherwise indicated; (+) indicates effect size is  
37 significant (as reported by the relevant study author/s),  $p < .05$ . For within-group results, effect size is reported as a

38 positive number if there was improvement in the outcome, and as a negative number if there was a deterioration. For  
39 between-group results, effect size is reported as a positive number if the outcome improved more in the mindfulness  
40 group than the control group; NR = not reported; ns = not significant; <sup>a</sup> = *d* not reported, but % change reported as  
41 significant; <sup>b</sup> *g* = Hedges' glass; <sup>c</sup> = only low frequency heart rate variability (HRV) is included, as the effect for high  
42 frequency HRV was reported only as non-significant; <sup>d</sup> = the within-group parenting stress effect is reported in Xu  
43 (2017); <sup>M</sup> = mother; <sup>F</sup> = father; PSS = Parental Stress Scale (Berry & Jones, 1995); PSI = Parenting Stress Index  
44 (Abidin, 1983); PSI-SF = Parenting Stress Index, Short Form (Abidin, 1995); SIPA = Stress Index for Parents of  
45 Adolescents (Sheras et al., 1998); QRS-PFP = Questionnaire on Resources and Stress Short Form – Parent and Family  
46 Problems subscale (Friedrich et al., 1983); OBVL = Opvoedingsbelastingvragenlijst (Veerman et al., 2014), a Dutch  
47 parenting stress questionnaire.

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50 **Table 3**51 *Reported results of mindfulness intervention, for youth psychological outcomes*

Study	Outcomes	Measure	Reporter	Within group results		Between group results (pre-post)
				Pre-post	Pre-follow up <sup>^</sup>	
Bögels et al. (2008)	Mindfulness	MAAS	Youth	$d=0.50(+)$	$d=0.50(+)$	
	Internalizing outcomes:					
	Internalizing problems	YSR	Youth	$d=0.50$	$d=0.50$	
		CBCL	Parent	$d=-0.10$	$d=0.30$	
	Happiness	SHS	Youth	$d=0.60(+)$	$d=0.60(+)$	
	Externalising outcomes:					
	Externalizing problems	YSR	Youth	$d=1.10(+)$	$d=1.20(+)$	
		CBCL	Parent	$d=0.30$	$d=0.40$	
	Self-control	SCRS	Youth	$d=0.80(+)$	$d=0.60(+)$	
	Cognitive outcomes:					
	Thought problems	YSR	Youth	$d=0.40$	$d=0.30$	
		CBCL	Parent	$d=0.00$	$d=0.10$	
	Attention problems	YSR	Youth	$d=1.00(+)$	$d=0.90(+)$	
		CBCL	Parent	$d=0.30$	$d=0.50$	
	Sustained attention	D2 Test of Attention	Youth	$d=0.60(+)$	$d=1.10(+)$	
	Social outcomes:					
	Social problems	YSR	Youth	$d=0.60(+)$	$d=0.50(+)$	
		CBCL	Parent	$d=0.20$	$d=0.30$	
Social behavior	CSBQ	Parent	$d=-0.10$	$d=0.40$		
Bögels et al. (2014)	Internalizing outcomes:					
	Internalizing problems	CBCL	Parent	$d=0.45(+)$	$d=0.47(+)$	
	Externalizing outcomes:					
Externalizing problems	CBCL	Parent	$d=0.31(+)$	$d=0.37(+)$		
de Bruin et al. (2015)	Mindfulness	MAAS - A	Youth	$d=-0.26$	$d=-0.02$	
	Internalizing outcomes:					
	Worry	PSWQ	Youth	$d=-0.04$	$d=0.28$	
	Rumination	RRS	Youth	$d=0.34$	$d=0.92 (+)$	
	Well-being	WHO-5	Youth	$d=0.55(+)$	$d=0.63(+)$	
	Externalizing outcomes:					
	Autism core symptoms	AQ	Youth	$d=-0.04$	$d=0.06$	
			Parent	$d=0.09$	$d=-0.15$	
Social outcomes:						
Social responsiveness	SRS	Parent	$d=-0.01$	$d=0.33$		

Table 3 continued

Study	Outcomes	Measure	Reporter	Within group results		Between group results (pre-post)	
				Pre-post	Pre-follow up <sup>^</sup>		
Haydicky et al. (2015) <sup>a</sup>	Internalizing outcomes: Internalizing problems	RCADS	Youth	$d=0.26$	$d=1.01(+)$		
			Parent	NR	$d=0.49$		
	Anxiety	RCADS	Youth	$d=0.25$	$d=1.02(+)$		
			Parent	NR	$d=0.37$		
	Depression	RCADS	Youth	$d=0.38$	$d=0.64(+)$		
			Parent	NR	$d=0.55$		
	Externalizing outcomes: ODD	Conners	Youth	$d=-0.45$	$d=0.21$		
			Parent	NR	$d=0.45$		
	CD	Conners	Youth	NR	$d=0.46$		
			Parent	$d=0.70(+)$	$d=0.32$		
	Hyperactivity/ impulsivity	Conners	Youth	NR	$d=0.16$		
			Parent	NR	$d=0.41$		
	Cognitive outcomes: Inattention	Conners	Youth	NR	$d=0.12$		
			Parent	$d=0.62$	$d=0.20$		
	Learning problems	Conners	Youth	NR	$d=-0.64$		
			Parent	$d=0.46$	$d=0.29$		
	Executive function	Conners	Parent	$d=0.36$	$d=0.24$		
Social outcomes: Peer relations	Conners	Parent	$d=1.07(+)$	$d=0.02$			
		Youth	$d=-0.34$	$d=0.31$			
Jones et al. (2018)	Externalizing outcomes: Behavior problems	SDQ	Parent	$d=-0.14$			
			Social outcomes: Prosocial behavior	SDQ	Parent	$d=0.04$	
Lo et al. (2017a)	Externalizing outcomes: Behavior problems	ECBI	Parent			NR (ns)	
			Behavior severity	ECBI	Parent		NR (ns)
Lo et al. (2017b)	Internalizing outcomes: Internalizing problems	CBCL	Parent			$d=0.46(+)$	
			Externalizing outcomes: Externalizing problems	CBCL	Parent		$d=0.29(+)$
	ADHD symptoms	SWAN	Parent			$d=0.63(+)$	
	Executive function <sup>b</sup>	CANT Conflict monitoring	Youth			$d=0.41(+)$	

Study	Outcomes	Measure	Reporter	Within group results		Between group results (pre-post)
				Pre-post	Pre-follow up <sup>^</sup>	
Mann et al. (2016)	Externalizing outcomes: Behavior problems	SDQ	Parent			<i>d</i> =0.60(+) (4 mo.)
Meppelink et al. (2016)	Internalizing outcomes: Internalizing problems	CBCL	Parent	<i>d</i> =0.34(+)	<i>d</i> =0.31(+)	
	Externalizing outcomes: Externalizing problems	CBCL	Parent	<i>d</i> =0.22(+)	<i>d</i> =0.37(+)	
	Cognitive outcomes: Attention problems	CBCL	Parent	<i>d</i> =0.26(+)	<i>d</i> =0.42(+)	
Neece (2014) [including Lewallen & Neece (2015); Chan & Neece (2018); Xu (2017)]	Internalizing outcomes: Internalizing problems	CBCL	Parent			<i>d</i> =-0.13
	Emotional reactivity	CBCL	Parent			<i>d</i> =-0.31
	Anxious/depressed	CBCL	Parent			<i>d</i> =-0.25
	Somatic complaints	CBCL	Parent			<i>d</i> =0.24
	Withdrawn/depressed	CBCL	Parent			<i>d</i> =-0.04
	Sleep problems	CBCL	Parent			<i>d</i> =0.28
	DSM Affective problems	CBCL	Parent			<i>d</i> =0.57
	DSM Anxiety problems	CBCL	Parent			<i>d</i> =-0.20
	Emotion dysregulation <sup>c</sup>	DCS	Observer	$\beta=0.27,$ $sr^2=0.06$		
	Emotion regulation <sup>d</sup>	ERC	Parent	<i>d</i> =0.12		
	Externalizing outcomes: Externalizing problems	CBCL	Parent			<i>d</i> =0.45
	Aggressive behavior	CBCL	Parent			<i>d</i> =0.30
	DSM ADHD problems	CBCL	Parent			<i>d</i> =0.85(+)
	DSM ODD	CBCL	Parent			<i>d</i> =0.20
	Cognitive outcomes: Attention problems	CBCL	Parent			<i>d</i> =0.71
DSM Developmental problems	CBCL	Parent			<i>d</i> =0.17	
Social outcomes <sup>e</sup> : Self-control	SSIS	Parent		<i>d</i> =0.54(+)		
		Secondary Informant		<i>d</i> =0.36(+)		
		Teacher		<i>d</i> =0.59(+)		

Study	Outcomes	Measure	Reporter	Within group results		Between group results (pre-post)
				Pre-post	Pre-follow up <sup>^</sup>	
Neece et al. (2014) continued	Communication		Parent	$d=0.03$		
			Secondary Informant	$d=0.10$		
			Teacher	$d=0.75(+)$		
	Cooperation		Parent	$d=-0.03$		
			Secondary Informant	$d=0.12$		
			Teacher	$d=0.83(+)$		
	Assertion		Parent	$d=-0.24$		
			Secondary Informant	$d=0.74(+)$		
			Teacher	$d=0.48(+)$		
	Responsibility		Parent	$d=0.18$		
			Secondary Informant	$d=0.19$		
			Teacher	$d=0.58(+)$		
	Empathy		Parent	$d=0.61(+)$		
			Secondary Informant	$d=0.27$		
			Teacher	$d=0.58(+)$		
	Engagement		Parent	$d=0.61(+)$		
			Secondary Informant	$d=0.19$		
			Teacher	$d=0.82(+)$		
Potharst et al. (2017)	Internalizing outcomes:					
	Positive affect	IBQ-R	Parent	$d=0.48(+)$	$d=0.51(+)$	
	Regulating	IBQ-R	Parent	$d=0.35$	$d=0.06$	
Potharst et al. (2018a)	Negative emotionality	IBQ-R	Parent	$d=0.25$	$d=0.19$	
	Internalizing outcomes:					
	Well-being	WHO-5	Parent	$d=0.30(+)$	$d=0.11$	
Racey et al. (2017)	Externalizing outcomes:					
	Behavior problems	SDQ	Parent	$d=0.61(+)$	$d=0.41(+)$	
Racey et al. (2017)	Internalizing outcomes:					
	Depression	BDI-II	Youth	NR(+) <sup>f</sup>		
	Rumination	RRS	Youth	NR(+) <sup>f</sup>		
	Self-compassion	SCS	Youth	NR(+) <sup>f</sup>		
	De-centring	EQD	Youth	NR(+) <sup>f</sup>		

Study	Outcomes	Measure	Reporter	<i>Within group results</i>		<i>Between group results (pre-post)</i>	
				<i>Pre-post</i>	<i>Pre- follow up<sup>^</sup></i>		
Ridderinkhof et al. (2017)	Mindfulness	CAMM <sup>g</sup>	Youth	$d=0.02$	$d=0.37$ ; $d=0.01$ (1 yr.)		
	Internalizing outcomes:						
	Internalizing problems	YSR <sup>g</sup>	Youth	$d=0.13$	$d=0.50$ ; $d=0.59$ (1 yr.)		
		CBCL	Parent	$d=0.35(+)$	$d=0.38(+)$ ; $d=0.63(+)$ (1 yr.)		
	Rumination	RRS <sup>g</sup>	Youth	$d=0.44(+)$	$d=0.71(+)$ ; $d=-0.27$ (1 yr.)		
	Stress	CSQ-CA	Youth	$d=0.20$	$d=0.63(+)$ ; $d=0.25$ (1 yr.)		
	Sleep problems	CSRQ	Youth	$d=0.06$	$d=0.28$ ; $d=0.12$ (1 yr.)		
	Well-being	WHO-5	Youth	$d=0.35$	$d=0.40$ ; $d=0.46(+)$ (1 yr.)		
	Externalizing outcomes:						
	Externalizing problems	YSR <sup>g</sup>	Youth	$d=0.20$	$d=0.56(+)$ ; $d=0.61(+)$ (1 yr.)		
		CBCL	Parent	$d=0.21(+)$	$d=0.43(+)$ ; $d=0.42(+)$ (1 yr.)		
	Cognitive outcomes:						
	Attention problems	YSR <sup>g</sup>	Youth	$d=0.22$	$d=0.57(+)$ ; $d=0.68(+)$ (1 yr.)		
		CBCL	Parent	$d=0.32(+)$	$d=0.44(+)$ ; $d=0.58(+)$ (1 yr.)		
	Social outcomes:						
Social responsiveness	SRS	Parent	$d=0.32(+)$	$d=0.33(+)$ ; $d=0.51(+)$ (1 yr.)			
van der Oord et al. (2012)	Externalizing outcomes:						
	Inattention	DBDRS	Parent	$d=0.80(+)$	$d=0.80(+)$		
			Teacher	NR (ns)	NR (ns)		
	Hyperactivity	DBDRS	Parent	$d=0.56(+)$	$d=0.59(+)$		
			Teacher	NR (ns)	NR (ns)		
	ODD	DBDRS	Parent	NR (ns)	NR (ns)		
Teacher			NR (ns)	NR (ns)			

Study	Outcomes	Measure	Reporter	Within group results		Between group results (pre-post)
				Pre-post	Pre-follow up <sup>^</sup>	
van de Weijer-Bergsma et al. (2012)	Mindfulness	MAAS	Youth	$d=0.10$	$d=-0.10; d=0.50$ (16 wks.)	
	Internalizing outcomes:					
	Internalizing problems	YSR	Youth	$d=0.10$	$d=0.20; d=0.70$ (16 wks.)	
		CBCL	Mother	$d=0.10$	$d=0.00$	
			Father	$d=0.40$	$d=0.50$	
			Teacher	$d=0.20$		
	Fatigue	FFS	Youth	$d=0.00$	$d=0.20; d=-0.10$ (16 wks.)	
	Happiness	SHS	Youth	$d=-0.50$	$d=-0.40; d=-0.20$ (16 wks.)	
	Externalizing outcomes:					
	Externalizing problems	YSR	Youth	$d=-0.10$	$d=0.50; d=0.90$ (16 wks.)	
		CBCL	Mother	$d=-0.21$	$d=0.10$	
			Father	$d=0.20(+)$	$d=0.30(+)$	
			Teacher	$d=0.20$		
	Cognitive outcomes:					
	Attention problems	YSR	Youth	$d=0.50$	$d=0.90(+); d=1.0$ (16 wks.)	
		CBCL	Mother	$d=0.10$	$d=0.30$	
			Father	$d=0.60$	$d=1.50(+)$	
			Teacher	$d=0.30$		
	Metacognitive problems	BRIEF	Mother	$d=-0.30$	$d=0.00$	
			Father	$d=1.00$	$d=1.80(+)$	
			Teacher	$d=0.20$		
	Behavior regulation problems	BRIEF	Mother	$d=-0.20$	$d=0.10$	
			Father	$d=0.10$	$d=0.60(+)$	
		Teacher	$d=-0.50$			
Reaction time	ANT	Youth	$d=-0.20$	$d=-0.10; d=-0.70$ (16 wks.)		
Sustained attention <sup>h</sup>	ANT	Youth	$d=0.20$ to $d=0.40$	$d=0.80(+); d=0.40$ to $d=0.50$ (16 wks.)		
Impulsivity <sup>i</sup>	ANT	Youth	$d=0.00$ to $d=0.50(+)$	$d=0.30$ to $d=0.70$ ; $d=0.10$ to $d=0.70$ (16 wks.)		

Study	Outcomes	Measure	Reporter	Within group results		Between group results (pre-post)
				Pre-post	Pre-follow up <sup>^</sup>	
Zhang et al. (2017)	Externalizing outcomes:					
	Behavior problems	ECBI	Parent	$d=0.25$		
	Behavior severity	ECBI	Parent	$d=0.36(+)$		
	Cognitive outcomes:					
	Metacognitive problems	BRIEF	Parent	$d=0.00$		
	Behavior regulation problems	BRIEF	Parent	$d=0.01$		
	Sustained attention <sup>j</sup>	Tea-CH	Youth	$d=-0.24$ to $d=0.76$		
	Selective/focussed attention <sup>k</sup>	Tea-CH	Youth	$d=0.80$ to $d=1.53(+)$		
	Attentional control/switching <sup>l</sup>	Tea-CH	Youth	$d=-0.16$ to $d=0.81$		
	Inattention <sup>m</sup>	CCPT	Youth	$d=-0.43$ to $d=2.29(+)$		
Impulsivity <sup>n</sup>	CCPT	Youth	$d=-0.73$ to $d=0.81$			
Vigilance <sup>o</sup>	CCPT	Youth	$d=-0.13$			
Sustained attention <sup>p</sup>	CCPT	Youth	$d=0.28$			

64 *Note.* For within-group results, effect size is reported as a positive number if there was an improvement in the outcome,  
65 and as a negative number if there was a deterioration. For between-group results, effect size is reported as a positive  
66 number if the outcome improved more in the mindfulness group than the control group; + indicates effect size is  
67 significant,  $p < .05$ ; <sup>^</sup>, 8 week follow up, unless otherwise indicated; NR, not reported by study authors; ns, not  
68 significant; <sup>a</sup> the follow-up effects reported by Haydicky et al. (2015) are post-follow up; <sup>b</sup> only the conflict monitoring  
69 effect is included, as effects for alerting, orienting, response time and accuracy were reported only as non-significant; <sup>c</sup>  
70 Emotion dysregulation effect is reported in Chan & Neece (2018); <sup>d</sup> Emotion regulation is reported in Xu (2017); <sup>e</sup>  
71 Social skills are reported in Lewallen & Neece (2015); <sup>f</sup>  $d$  not reported, but mean change reported as significant; <sup>g</sup> these  
72 measures were only completed by adolescents  $\geq 11$  yrs; <sup>h</sup> Sustained attention measured by “misses” measures of  
73 Amsterdam Neuropsychological Tasks (ANT; De Sonneville, 1999); <sup>i</sup> Impulsivity measured by “false alarms” measures  
74 of ANT; <sup>j</sup> Sustained attention measured by Score!, Sky Search DT, Walk Do Not Walk, and Code Transmission  
75 subtests of the Test of Everyday Attention for Children (Tea-CH; Manly et al., 2001); <sup>k</sup> Selective/focussed attention  
76 measured by Sky Search and Map Mission subtests of Tea-CH; <sup>l</sup> Attentional control/switching measured by Creature  
77 Counting and Opposite Worlds subtests of Tea-CH; <sup>m</sup> Inattention measured by detectability, omissions, commissions,  
78 Hit reaction time (HRT) statistics and variability measures in Conners’ Continuous Performance Test, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition  
79 (CCPT; Conners, 2015); <sup>n</sup> Impulsivity measured by commissions, perseverations and HRT measures of CCPT; <sup>o</sup>  
80 Vigilance measured by HRT block change measure of CCPT; <sup>p</sup> Sustained attention measured by HRT block change  
81 measure of CCPT; MAAS, Mindful Attention and Awareness Scale (Brown & Ryan, 2003); YSR, Youth Self-Report

82 (Achenbach, 1991a); CBCL, Child Behavior Checklist (Achenbach, 1991b); SHS, Subjective Happiness Scale  
83 (Lyubomirsky & Lepper, 1999); SCRS, Self-Control Rating Scale (Kendall, 1979); CSBQ, Children's Social Behavior  
84 Questionnaire (Luteijn et al., 2000); MAAS-A, Mindful Attention and Awareness Scale – Adolescent (Brown et al.,  
85 2011); PSWQ, Penn State Worry Questionnaire (Meyer et al., 1990); Ruminative Response Scale (Nolen-Hoeksema,  
86 2000); WHO-5, World Health Organisation-Five Wellbeing Index (Bech et al., 2003); SRS, Social Responsiveness  
87 Scale (Constantino & Gruber, 2005); AQ, Autism Questionnaire (Auyeung et al., 2008); RCADS, Revised Child  
88 Anxiety and Depression Scale (Chorpita et al., 2000); Conners, Conners 3rd Edition (Conners, 2008); SDQ, Strengths  
89 and Difficulties Questionnaire (Goodman, 1997); ECBI, Eyberg Child Behavior Inventory (Robinson et al., 1980);  
90 SWAN, Strengths and Weaknesses of ADHD Symptoms and Normal Behaviors Rating Scale (Swanson et al., 2012);  
91 CANT, Child Attention Network Test (Posner and Peterson, 1990); DCS, Dysregulation Coding System (Hoffman et  
92 al., 2006); ERC, Emotion Regulation Checklist (Shields & Cicchetti, 1997); SSIS, Social Skills Improvement System  
93 (Gresham & Elliott, 2008); IBQ-R, Infant Behavior Questionnaire-Revised, Very Short Form (Putnam et al., 2014);  
94 BDI-II, Beck Depression Inventory (Beck et al., 1996); SCS, Self-Compassion Scale (Neff, 2015); EQD, Experiences  
95 Questionnaire (Fresco et al., 2007), Decentring subscale; CAMM, Children's Acceptance and Awareness Measure (de  
96 Bruin et al., 2013); CSQ-CA, Chronic Stress Questionnaire for Children and Adolescents (De Bruin et al., 2017);  
97 CSRQ, Chronic Sleep Reduction Questionnaire (Meijer, 2008); DBDRS, Disruptive Behavior Disorder Rating Scale  
98 (Pelham et al., 1992); FFS, Flinders Fatigue Scale (Gradisar et al., 2007); BRIEF, Behavior Rating Inventory of  
99 Executive Function (Goia et al., 2000).

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101



## 102 **Data Analysis**

103           The meta-analysis was conducted using the Comprehensive Meta-Analysis program,  
104 version 3.0 (CMA). Two types of summary effect were calculated, using means and standard  
105 deviations whenever these were available, and statistics such as  $t$  and  $p$  when they were not.  
106 For studies reporting pre- and post-intervention outcome data, we calculated Hedges'  $g$   
107 within-group effect sizes. For studies comparing outcomes of mindfulness and control  
108 groups, we calculated Hedges'  $g$  between-group differences in effect size. Hedges'  $g$  is a  
109 weighted mean effect size that corrects for potential bias due to small sample sizes (Hedges  
110 & Olkin, 1985). Cohen's guidelines that an effect size of 0.20 is small, 0.50 is moderate and  
111 0.80 is large (Cohen, 1988) may be applied to both Cohen's  $d$  and Hedges'  $g$  effect sizes. For  
112 all analyses, a correlation of  $r = 0.70$  was assumed between pre- and post-intervention  
113 measures (Rosenthal, 1993). Random-effects models were used for main effects analyses, to  
114 reflect the assumption that the true effect size would vary from study to study because study  
115 participants were drawn from different populations. Each summary effect reported in this  
116 paper is therefore an estimate of the mean of a distribution of true effects (Borenstein et al.,  
117 2009). Heterogeneity amongst studies in each main-effect analysis was assessed using the  $Q$   
118 and  $I^2$  statistics.  $Q$  reflects the distance of each study from the summary effect. A significant  
119  $Q$ -statistic indicates variance in true effects, rather than variance due only to random  
120 sampling error (Borenstein et al., 2009).  $I^2$  reflects the proportion of observed variance in  
121 effects that is due to heterogeneity, or variance in true effects (Higgins et al., 2003). Higgins  
122 et al. suggest that  $I^2$  values of 25, 50 and 75% indicate low, moderate and high heterogeneity  
123 respectively.

124           Several methodological issues arose in connection with the calculation of the  
125 summary effect size for parenting stress. All studies except one reported either a total  
126 parenting stress score or the score from a single parenting stress subscale. A parenting stress

127 effect size was therefore calculated for each of these studies, using the single reported  
128 outcome score. However, Chaplin et al. (2018) reported separate data for three subscales of  
129 the Stress Index for Parents of Adolescents (SIPA; Sheras et al., 1998). Rather than including  
130 each of these three subscales as independent effects in the meta-analysis, the procedure  
131 described by Borenstein et al. (2009) was followed to create a single, composite effect for  
132 this study. Using a single effect ensures that additional weight is not given to this study, as  
133 would be the case if the subscales were treated as independent of each other. It also ensures  
134 that the precision of the summary effect is not over-estimated due to the positive correlations  
135 between each subscale (Borenstein et al., 2009). Under this procedure, the effects for each  
136 subscale were averaged to give a composite parenting stress effect size. To calculate the  
137 variance of the composite effect, a correlation between the subscales of  $r = 0.55$  was used,  
138 based on the reported correlations between the three relevant subscales of  $r = 0.52$  to  $0.57$   
139 (Sheras et al., 1998). A similar issue arose in relation to the parenting stress reporter.  
140 Although the majority of studies presented data for a single parenting stress reporter, van de  
141 Weijer-Bergsma et al. (2012) reported separate data for mothers and fathers. As mothers and  
142 fathers were reporting their levels of stress in respect of the same adolescent, the mother and  
143 father effects were not independent. Accordingly, a composite mother/father effect size was  
144 calculated following the procedure described above, using a correlation between the two  
145 outcomes of  $r = 0.60$ . This  $r$ -value was chosen using the correlations between mother- and  
146 father-reports of child anxiety ( $r = 0.68$ ) and parental rearing ( $r$ s between  $0.39$  and  $0.49$ )  
147 reported in Bögels and van Melick (2004), as a guide. Finally, Potharst et al. (2018a) reported  
148 data separately for parents participating in clinical and non-clinical settings. The effects  
149 reported for these two settings have been included separately in all analyses, as if they were  
150 data from two separate studies, because they are based on reports from independent groups of  
151 parents participating in independent settings.

152           Due to the limited number of studies reporting on specific youth psychological  
153 outcomes, a detailed quantitative analysis was not conducted in respect of each youth  
154 outcome covered by the reviewed studies. Instead, specific outcomes were grouped into  
155 internalizing, externalizing, cognitive and social domains, as the reported outcomes all fell  
156 within one of these four domains of functioning. In addition, to provide a large enough pool  
157 of effects for moderator analyses to be conducted, a new “overall youth outcomes” variable  
158 was created. This variable was created by first calculating effect sizes for youth outcomes  
159 reported by parents and then calculating a single, composite parent-reported effect size for  
160 each study using the Borenstein et al. (2009) procedure described above, assuming a  
161 correlation between the outcomes within each study of  $r = 0.60$ . In studies reporting a  
162 broadband scale for youth outcomes (for example, “Internalizing problems”), the effect for  
163 the broadband scale was used in the calculation of the overall youth outcomes summary  
164 effect size. Where a study also reported data for the specific scales making up that broadband  
165 scale, specific scale effects were not included. In studies where no broadband scale was used,  
166 but more than one youth psychological outcome was reported (for example, anxiety and  
167 depression), then these were combined to form a composite effect. For studies reporting data  
168 for only one relevant youth outcome, then the effect size for that outcome was used for that  
169 study. For the two studies that reported separate youth outcome data for two parents or a  
170 parent and another family caregiver (van de Weijer-Bergsma et al., 2012 and Lewallen &  
171 Neece, 2015), a composite parent-reported effect size was calculated using a correlation of  $r$   
172 = 0.60 between the two parent or caregiver outcomes. The same two studies also included  
173 data from tutor reports on some outcomes. However, for consistency with the other studies,  
174 the tutor-reported data was not included in the calculation of the youth outcomes effect for  
175 those two studies. Data from youth-reported and objective tests of youth outcomes were also  
176 not used, as most studies did not include these data. The single youth outcome effect size for

177 each study was then combined with the others to generate a summary, parent-reported overall  
178 youth outcome effect size.

179 Exploratory moderator analyses were conducted in relation to both parenting stress  
180 and overall youth outcomes. For potential categorical moderators, a mixed effects model was  
181 used (random-effects within subgroups and fixed-effects across subgroups). The variance of  
182 true effect sizes across studies ( $T^2$ ) was estimated by pooling within-group estimates of  $T^2$  for  
183 each subgroup and applying the common estimate to all studies. This method of estimating  $T^2$   
184 is recommended by Borenstein et al. (2009) to increase the accuracy of the estimate, when  
185 the number of studies within any subgroup is low. Categorical moderators were tested only  
186 when there were four or more studies per subgroup (Fu et al., 2011). To test significance, the  
187  $Q$  statistic was calculated between subgroups ( $Q_B$ ). Random-effects meta-regression analyses  
188 were used to investigate the relationship between parent or youth outcomes and potential  
189 continuous moderators.

#### 190 **Risk of Bias in Individual Studies**

191 A risk of bias assessment was conducted for each included study. Bias is defined as  
192 the tendency for study results to vary from those that would have been obtained from a well-  
193 designed and run RCT on the same participant group (Sterne et al., 2016). The domains  
194 assessed for potential bias were confounding (for non-randomised studies only), selection,  
195 misclassification, performance, attrition, detection and reporting bias. For RCTs, the  
196 Cochrane Risk of Bias tool for Randomised Controlled Trials (Higgins et al., 2011) was used  
197 to assess selection bias. However, for all other domains, the Cochrane Risk of Bias in Non-  
198 randomised Studies of Interventions (ROBINS-I) tool (Sterne et al., 2016) was used, as that  
199 tool appeared more suited to assessing studies of psychological interventions where blinding  
200 of participants, researchers and outcome assessments are not possible. For the non-  
201 randomised studies, the ROBINS-I tool was used to assess all domains. All included studies

202 were assessed for potential bias independently by both the first author and the graduate  
203 student who assisted with study selection. There was 94% agreement in bias ratings, with  
204 differences resolved by discussion.

## 205 **Results**

### 206 **Study Selection**

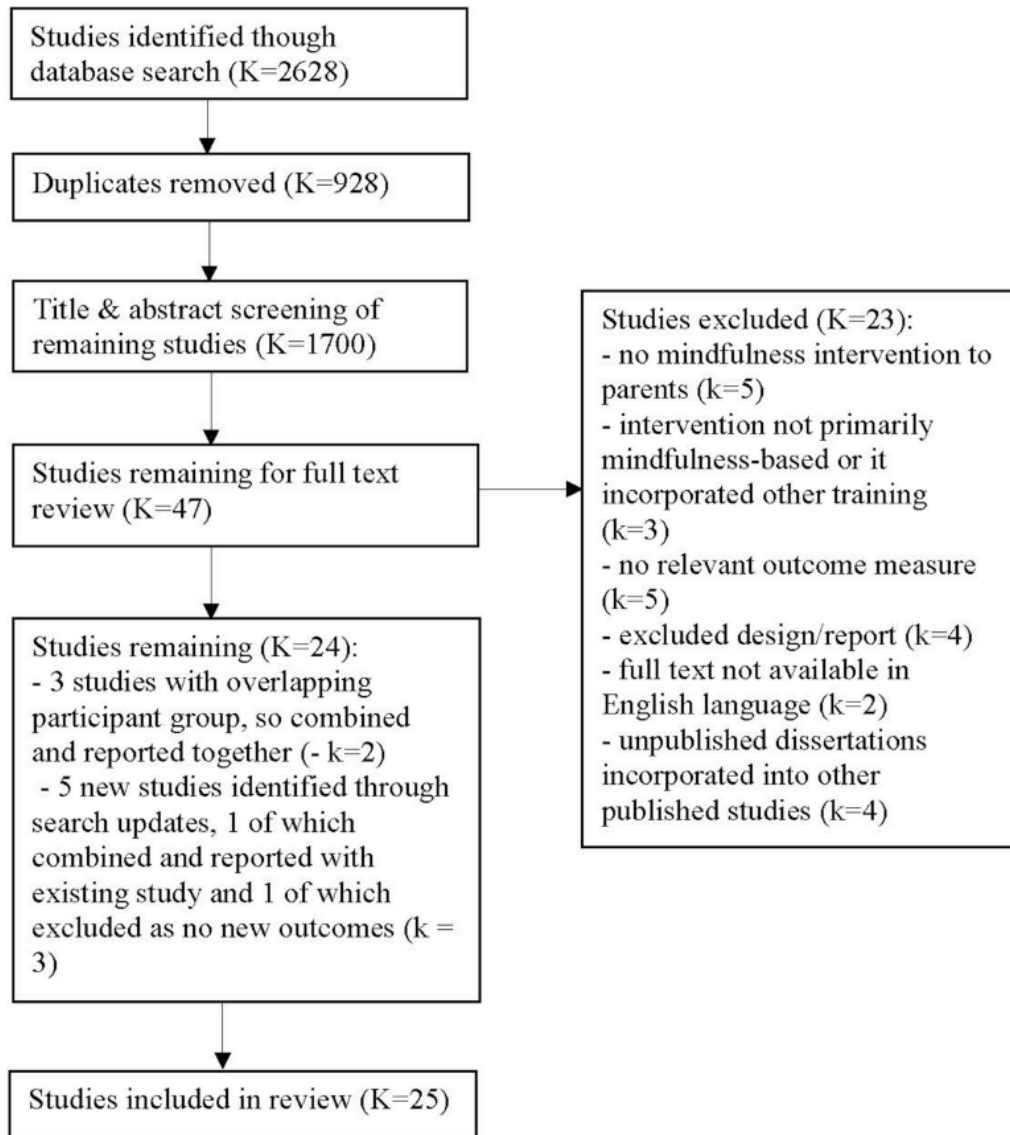
207 Figure 1 shows the process of study selection and exclusion. The database searches  
208 identified 2,628 studies, 928 of which were duplicates. Forty-seven studies were retained  
209 after the title and abstract screening. Twenty-three of these studies were excluded based on  
210 the full text review, for the reasons set out in Figure 1. Of the 24 retained studies, three  
211 studies (Neece, 2014; Lewallen & Neece, 2015; Xu, 2017) appeared to be reporting data from  
212 an overlapping participant group. Confirmation was sought by email from the corresponding  
213 author but was not received. Lewallen and Neece (2015) and Xu (2017) reported on relevant  
214 outcomes that were not included in Neece (2014), but the outcome data for these two studies  
215 are reported in Table 3 under Neece (2014), to reflect the apparent non-independence of the  
216 outcomes reported in these two studies. When the initial search conducted in August 2018  
217 was updated in October 2018, five additional studies were identified by the first author. Two  
218 of these, Chan and Neece (2018) and Neece et al. (2018), also appeared to report data from a  
219 group of participants overlapping with those used in Neece (2014). As these two new studies  
220 and Neece (2014) all reported on parenting stress, the parenting stress outcomes from Chan  
221 and Neece (2018) and Neece et al. (2018) were not included in this review. The child  
222 outcome reported by Chan and Neece (2018) was not included in Neece (2014), so this child  
223 outcome is reported in Table 3, also under Neece (2014). However, the child outcomes  
224 reported in Neece et al. (2018) were also reported in Neece (2014), so this study was not  
225 included in this review. Accordingly, 25 independent studies are included in this review.

226

227 **Figure 1**

228 *Flow diagram showing process of study selection*

229



230

231

## 232 **Study Characteristics**

233 Twenty-five independent studies reported on the effects of a mindfulness intervention  
234 for parents. Eighteen studies delivered mindful parenting interventions, five studies delivered  
235 MBSR or Mindfulness-based Cognitive Therapy (MBCT) interventions specifically adapted  
236 for parents, and four studies (which appeared to use overlapping participant groups) delivered

237 MBSR to parents. Where adaptations were made to standard MBSR or MBCT programs to  
238 reflect the fact that the participants were parents, these adaptations were minor. For example,  
239 trainers encouraged participants to reflect on how key concepts of mindfulness, such as  
240 acceptance and non-reactivity, might apply to their interactions with their children.

241 All studies delivered the intervention in a group format. Sixteen studies delivered the  
242 intervention to parents (including one mother/infant group), while nine delivered parallel  
243 mindfulness training to both parents and their children (parents and children in separate  
244 groups). In all studies, the majority of participating parents (between 55 and 100%) were  
245 mothers. In relation to parental mental health, four studies involved parents referred for  
246 mental health treatment for their own mental health condition or parenting difficulties, while  
247 another six studies involved parents identified as being vulnerable to mental health  
248 difficulties due to socio-demographic factors or past psychiatric history, or who self-reported  
249 experiencing parenting stress. The remaining studies did not report on parental mental health  
250 status. In relation to youth mental health, the children of participating parents were identified  
251 as having mental health diagnoses or difficulties in 20 of the 25 studies. The mean age of  
252 children of participating parents ranged from 0.86 to 16.4 years, and 16 studies involved  
253 parents with children whose mean age was <12 years.

254 Sample sizes ranged from 11 to 180 participants. Of the 25 independent studies, 18  
255 utilized a single group design and seven used a control group. Of the controlled trials, six  
256 were RCTs. Two RCTs used an active control group (skills-based parent training and parent  
257 education), while the remainder used passive controls such as waitlist or usual care groups.  
258 Individual session length ranged from 1.5 h (ten studies) to 3 h (three studies). Eight of the  
259 ten studies that delivered parallel parent and child interventions used the shorter 1.5 h  
260 sessions. The interventions were delivered over 6–12 weeks, and involved total hours of  
261 training between 9 and 27 h.

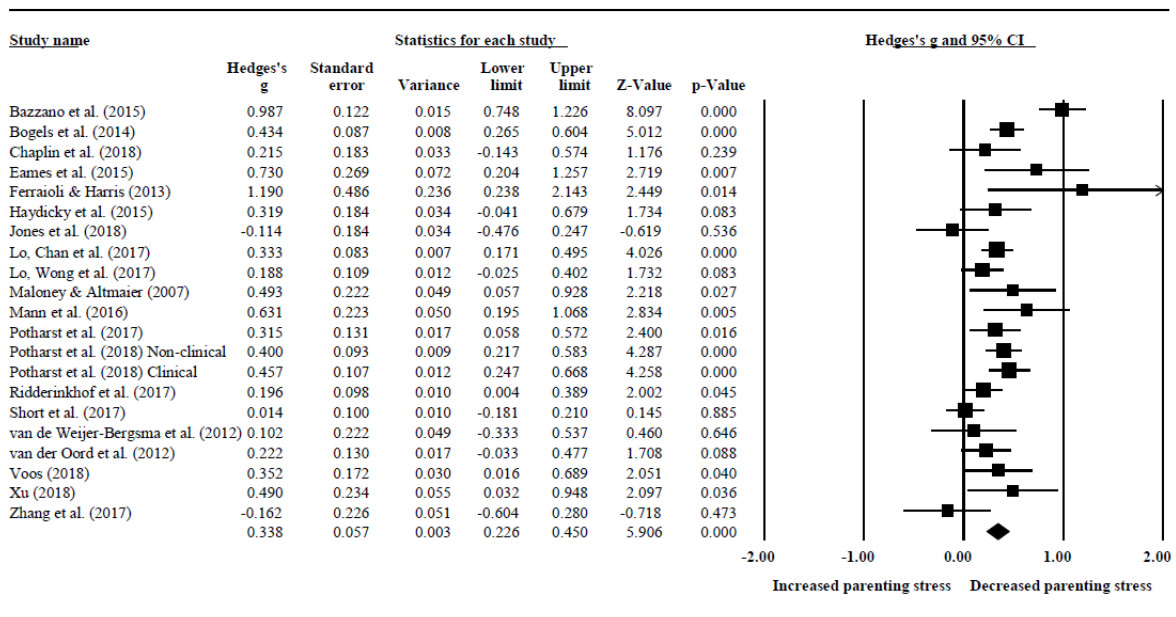
262 **Parenting Stress**

263 **Within-Group Differences.** Nineteen studies reported data enabling a quantitative  
 264 analysis of within-group parenting stress. Figure 2 shows the effect sizes for pre- to post-  
 265 intervention change in parenting stress, with a summary Hedges'  $g = 0.34$  ( $p < .001$ , 95% CI  
 266 [0.23–0.45]). Heterogeneity was moderate to high ( $Q = 66.96$ ,  $p = < .001$ ,  $I^2 = 70\%$ ). Figure 2  
 267 reports composite mother/father data for all studies where mothers and fathers participated. In  
 268 the one study that reported mother and father outcomes separately, the authors found a  
 269 significant, moderate to large reduction in parenting stress for fathers and a moderate but  
 270 insignificant increase for mothers (van de Weijer-Bergsma et al., 2012).

271

272 **Figure 2**

273 *Pre- to post-intervention changes in parenting stress*



274

275

276 At first follow-up, which was generally 2 months post-intervention, the summary  
 277 effect size for change in parenting stress was  $g = 0.53$  ( $p < 0.001$ , 95% CI [0.45–0.61]) and  
 278 heterogeneity was low ( $Q = 6.62$ ,  $p = .76$ ,  $I^2 = 0\%$ ). The difference between pre-post and pre-



279 follow up effect sizes was significant ( $Q_B = 7.32, df = 1, p = .007$ ). Two studies also reported  
280 a 1-year post- intervention follow up. While no quantitative analysis was conducted for this  
281 time-point, the reported small to moderate reductions in parenting stress from pre-  
282 intervention remained significant [ $d = 0.53$  in Potharst et al. (2017) and  $d = 0.28$  in  
283 Ridderinkhof et al. (2017)].

284 Moderator analyses were conducted in relation to youth clinical status (clinical vs.  
285 non-clinical), youth age (child under 12 years vs. adolescent 12 years and over), and  
286 intervention groups (parent only mindfulness group vs. parallel parent and youth mindfulness  
287 groups). There were insufficient studies to conduct this analysis in respect of parent clinical  
288 status. No significant difference was found between the parenting stress effect sizes for  
289 parents attending a mindfulness program based on youth clinical status ( $g = 0.33, p < .001,$   
290 95% CI [0.19–0.48] for clinical youth and  $g = 0.35, p < .001, 95\% \text{ CI [0.16–0.53]}$  for non-  
291 clinical youth;  $Q_B = 0.01, df = 1, p = .906$ ). Similarly, there was no difference in effects  
292 between parents of children ( $g = 0.31, p < .001, 95\% \text{ CI [0.21–0.42]}$ ) and adolescents ( $g =$   
293  $0.21, p = .005, 95\% \text{ CI [0.06–0.35]}$ ) ( $Q_B = 1.33, df = 1, p = .248$ ). However, the effect size for  
294 studies using parent-only intervention groups ( $g = 0.35, p < .001, 95\% \text{ CI [0.24–0.46]}$ ) was  
295 greater than that for studies using parallel intervention groups ( $g = 0.18, p = .001, 95\% \text{ CI$   
296  $[0.07–0.29]}$ ) ( $Q_B = 4.37, df = 1, p = .036$ ). A meta-regression of total intervention hours on  
297 parenting stress effect size provided no evidence of a dose-response relationship between  
298 total hours spent in the mindfulness intervention and parenting stress ( $\beta = 0.01, SE = 0.01, p$   
299  $= .26$ ).

300 Parenting stress was assessed by all studies as an outcome variable rather than as a  
301 potential mediator in the relationship between mindfulness in parenting and youth outcomes.  
302 One study (Haydicky et al., 2015) examined the direction of relationship between mindful  
303 parenting and parenting stress, by using cross-lagged panel correlations. Pre-test mindful

304 parenting scores were significantly negatively correlated with post-test parenting stress [ $r(14)$   
305 =  $-0.52$ ,  $p = .02$ ], but pre-test parenting stress was not significantly correlated with post-test  
306 mindful parenting [ $r(14) = -0.13$ ,  $p = .311$ ].

307 **Between-Group Differences.** Five studies reported data enabling a comparison of  
308 post-intervention differences in parenting stress between mindfulness and control groups. The  
309 summary effect for the difference between these two groups indicated that the mindfulness  
310 groups experienced larger reductions in parenting stress than the control groups. This  
311 difference was of a small to moderate size ( $g = 0.44$ ,  $p = .005$ , 95% CI [ $0.13-0.74$ ]), with  
312 moderate heterogeneity ( $Q = 8.11$ ,  $p = .087$ ,  $I^2 = 51\%$ ). Of these controlled studies, two  
313 compared a mindful parenting intervention with another active intervention. Ferraioli and  
314 Harris (2013) reported that mindful parenting resulted in a larger reduction in parenting stress  
315 than skills-based parent training ( $d = 1.59$ ). Chaplin et al. (2018) reported that mindful  
316 parenting outperformed parent education, in two out of the three parenting stress domains  
317 measured ( $d = 0.53$  and  $d = 0.59$ ). Although not specifically about parenting stress, one study  
318 measured parents' heart rate variability and reported an effect of  $d = 0.00$  for the comparison  
319 between the mindfulness and control groups (Lo et al., 2017b).

## 320 **Youth Psychological Outcomes**

321 **Within-Group Differences.** The summary effect sizes for the youth internalizing,  
322 externalizing, cognitive, and social domains are presented in Table 4. Post-intervention effect  
323 sizes for each domain were small, and all were maintained at 2-month follow-up.

324

325

326 **Table 4**327 *Within-group effects for four youth outcome domains*

Outcome domain	Point of assessment	Sample		Effect size			Heterogeneity	
		<i>K</i>	<i>n</i>	Hedges' <i>g</i>	<i>p</i> -value	95% CI	<i>I</i> <sup>2</sup>	<i>p</i> -value
Internalizing	Post-intervention	12	438	0.29	< .001	[0.21, 0.36]	22%	.229
	Follow-up#	9	397	0.33	< .001	[0.22, 0.44]	46%	.065
Externalizing	Post-intervention	14	621	0.26	< .001	[0.18, 0.34]	37%	.079
	Follow-up	10	414	0.39	< .001	[0.31, 0.47]	7%	.379
Cognitive	Post-intervention	7	231	0.27	.001	[0.11, 0.42]	52%	.051
	Follow-up	5	144	0.40	< .001	[0.24, 0.55]	24%	.263
Social <sup>^</sup>	Post-intervention	5	158	0.28	< .001	[0.14, 0.43]	25%	.254

328 *Note.* *K*, number of studies included in the effect size calculation; *n*, total number of participants in the  
329 studies included in the relevant domain; #, all follow up assessments are 2 months post-intervention,  
330 except for one study included in the Externalizing domain, which conducted follow-up 4 months post-  
331 intervention; ^ follow-up data were not analyzed for the Social outcomes domain, as only three  
332 studies reported follow-up social outcome data.

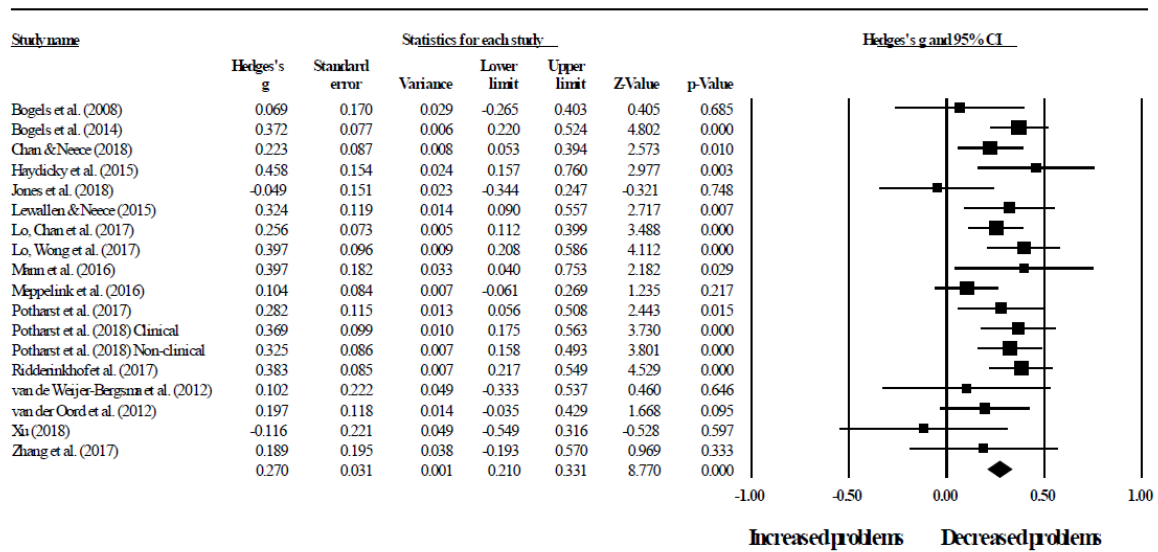
333

334 Figure 3 shows the effect sizes for overall youth outcomes. The summary effect size was  $g =$   
335  $0.27$  ( $p < .001$ , 95% CI [0.21–0.33]), with low to moderate heterogeneity ( $Q = 23.06$ ,  $p =$   
336  $.147$ ,  $I^2 = 26\%$ ). At 2-month follow-up, the summary effect was  $g = 0.35$  ( $p < .001$ , 95% CI  
337 [0.27–0.42]), with low heterogeneity ( $Q = 10.45$ ,  $p = .402$ ,  $I^2 = 4\%$ ). There was no difference  
338 between pre-post and pre-follow up effects ( $Q_B = 2.53$ ,  $df = 1$ ,  $p = .112$ ).

339

340 **Figure 3**

341 *Pre- to post-intervention change in overall youth outcomes*



342

343

344 Despite the relatively low level of heterogeneity in youth outcome effects, moderator  
 345 analyses were conducted in respect of youth age (child vs. adolescent) and intervention  
 346 groups (parent only vs. parallel parent and youth groups). There were insufficient studies to  
 347 conduct this analysis in respect of parent or youth clinical status. No differences were found  
 348 in overall youth outcome effect sizes for children ( $g = 0.26, p < 0.001, 95\% \text{ CI } [0.20-0.33]$ )  
 349 and adolescents ( $g = 0.30, p = 0.001, 95\% \text{ CI } [0.13- 0.48]$ ) ( $Q_B = 0.17, df = 1, p = 0.682$ ) or  
 350 for studies using parent only interventions ( $g = 0.26, p < 0.001, 95\% \text{ CI } [0.18-0.33]$ ) and  
 351 studies using parallel parent and youth interventions ( $g = 0.31, p < 0.001, 95\% \text{ CI } [0.21-  
 352 0.41]$ ) ( $Q_B = 0.71, df = 1, p = 0.399$ ).

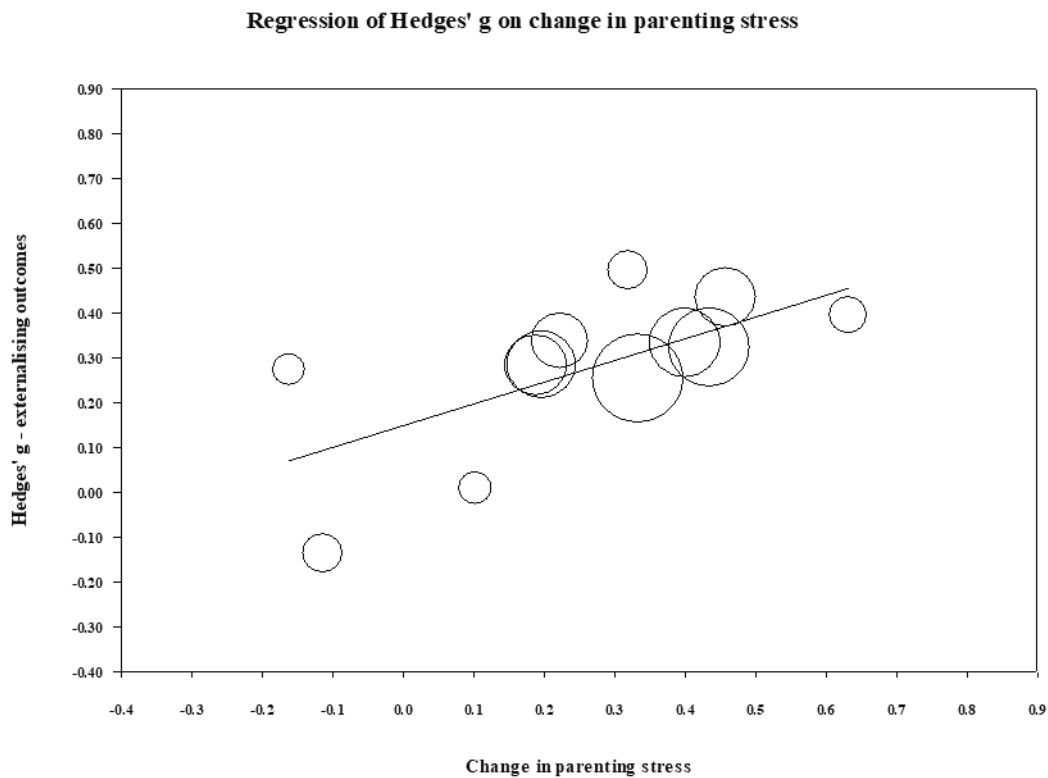
353 A meta-regression of total intervention hours on overall youth outcomes was  
 354 conducted, but no evidence was found of a relationship between these two variables ( $\beta =$   
 355  $0.00, SE = 0.00, p = 0.844$ ). For those studies reporting both parenting stress and youth  
 356 outcome data, a series of meta-regressions were conducted to examine whether change in

357 parenting stress predicted youth outcome effect sizes. Change in parenting stress predicted  
358 change in both youth externalizing ( $\beta = 0.48$ ,  $SE = 0.21$ ,  $p = 0.02$ ) and cognitive outcomes ( $\beta$   
359  $= 1.13$ ,  $SE = 0.56$ ,  $p = 0.046$ ), but not internalizing outcomes ( $\beta = -0.32$ ,  $SE = 0.30$ ,  $p = .282$ ).  
360 The same analysis was not performed for the social domain as there were too few studies.  
361 Figures 4, 5 show the relationships between change in parenting stress and externalizing  
362 outcomes, and change in parenting stress and internalizing outcomes, respectively.

363

364 **Figure 4**

365 *Bubble plot of youth externalizing outcome effects against change in parenting stress*



366

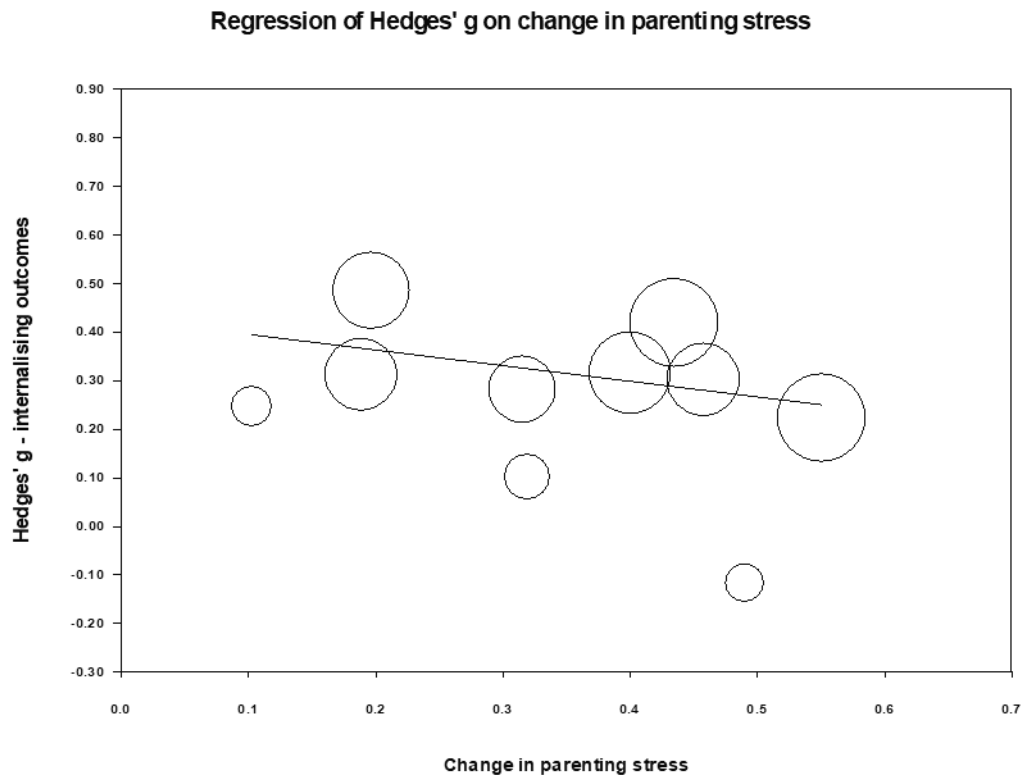
367 *Note.* Each bubble represents a study, and the diameter of each bubble is proportional to the  
368 study weight

369

370

371 **Figure 5**

372 *Bubble plot of youth internalizing outcome effects against change in parenting stress*



373

374 *Note.* Each bubble represents a study, and the diameter of each bubble is proportional to the  
375 study weight

376

377 Insufficient data was available for a quantitative analysis of youth mindfulness, but  
378 the effects reported by five studies for this variable (see Table 3) ranged from  $d = -0.26$  to  
379  $d = 0.50$ . A small number of studies included objective measures of youth outcomes, such as  
380 attention tests. In two studies, the effects obtained in the attention tests were broadly in line  
381 with those obtained from self-reports. For example, in Bögels et al. (2008), the youth-  
382 reported effect for attention problems was  $d = 1.00$ , then  $d = 0.90$  at follow up, while the  
383 effect reported based on the D2 Attention Test was  $d = 0.60$ , rising to  $d = 1.10$  at follow up.  
384 Similarly, in van de Weijer-Bergsma et al. (2012), the youth-reported effect for attention  
385 problems was  $d = 0.50$ , while the computerized sustained attention task effects ranged

386 between  $d = 0.20$  and  $d = 0.40$ . In Zhang et al. (2017), the effects reported for several aspects  
387 of attention were variable. For example, the effects in various subtests of sustained attention  
388 ranged from  $d = -0.24$  to  $d = 0.76$ .

389 Only one study reported mother and father data on youth outcomes separately (van de  
390 Weijer-Bergsma et al., 2012), and two studies obtained teacher reports of youth outcomes  
391 (Lewallen & Neece, 2015, reported in Table 3 under Neece, 2014; van de Weijer-Bergsma et  
392 al., 2012). Teacher-reported effects were similar to parent-reported effects in van de Weijer-  
393 Bergsma et al. However, in Lewallen and Neece, teachers reported significant improvements  
394 in all seven of the social domains measured, whereas parents reported significant  
395 improvements in only three domains.

396 **Between-Group Differences.** No quantitative comparison of the effectiveness of  
397 mindfulness interventions to control groups for youth outcomes was performed, as data  
398 required for this analysis was only available for three studies. However, of the studies that  
399 reported a between-group effect, the mindfulness group outperformed wait list for  
400 externalizing problems in two out of five studies [ $d = 0.29$  in Lo et al. (2017b) and  $d = 0.60$  in  
401 Mann et al. (2016)] and for internalizing problems in one out of three studies [ $d = 0.46$  in Lo  
402 et al. (2017b)]. There were no studies comparing mindfulness with an active control, for  
403 youth psychological outcomes.

#### 404 **Publication Bias**

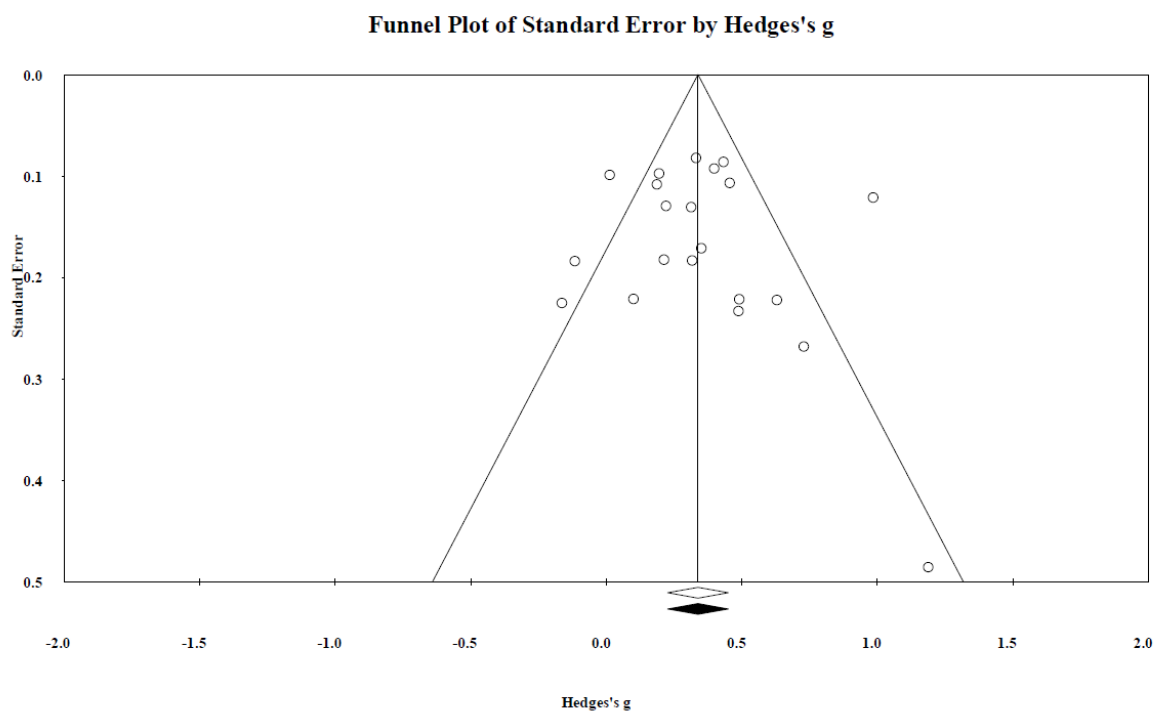
405 To assess the impact of any publication bias on the observed effects in this review, the  
406 trim and fill method (Duval & Tweedie, 2000) was used to give unbiased estimates of effect  
407 size. For within-group parenting stress, the imputed summary effect size was  $g = 0.33$ , which  
408 was equal to the observed summary effect size of  $g = 0.33$ . As shown in Figure 6, the trim  
409 and fill analysis indicated that no studies were required to be trimmed in order for the funnel  
410 plot to be symmetric, that is for the impact of any publication bias to be removed. In relation

411 to between-group parenting stress, the trim and fill analysis produced an imputed summary  
412 effect size of  $g = 0.32$  (compared to the observed  $g = 0.35$ ), with one study needing to fall on  
413 the left of the summary effect for plot symmetry. The impact of any publication bias in  
414 relation to parenting stress effects appears likely to be trivial.

415

416 **Figure 6**

417 *Funnel plot of standard error by within-group parenting stress effect sizes*



418

419 *Note.* The white diamond represents the observed summary effect size, while the black  
420 diamond represents the imputed summary effect size free of publication bias.

421

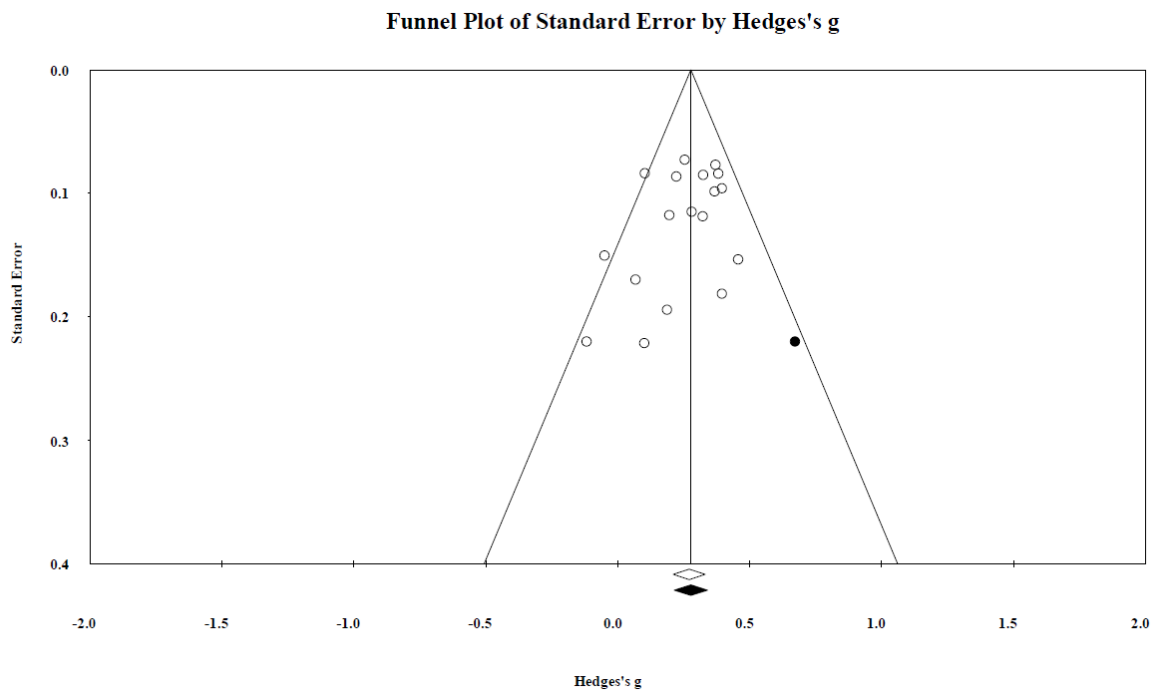
422

423 For within-group overall youth outcomes, the funnel plot at Figure 7 shows that one  
424 study would need to fall on the right side of the observed summary effect for plot symmetry.  
425 The imputed effect size was  $g = 0.281$  compared to the observed  $g = 0.276$ ), again suggesting  
426 a trivial impact of publication bias.



427 **Figure 7**

428 *Funnel plot of standard error by within-group overall youth outcomes effect sizes*



429

430 *Note.* The black circle represents the effect size of the imputed study that would be required  
431 to remove publication bias. The white diamond represents the observed summary effect size,  
432 while the black diamond represents the imputed summary effect size free of publication bias.

433

#### 434 **Assessment of Study Quality**

435 Table 5 contains risk of bias assessments for each reviewed study. Overall, risk of  
436 bias was serious. For the non-randomized intervention studies, this was largely driven by the  
437 serious risk of confounding bias, which ROBINS-I notes may occur if any prognostic  
438 variable also predicts the intervention received by a participant. Due to the lack of  
439 randomization, it is considered likely to be an issue for most if not all non-randomized studies  
440 (Sterne et al., 2016). For both non-randomized studies and RCTs, the majority of studies were  
441 considered at serious risk of detection bias because of the reliance on subjective self- or  
442 parent-about-youth outcome reports, which are considered reasonably vulnerable to the  
443 influence of knowledge about the intervention. Bias due to potential misclassification was an

444 issue in many studies, as most reports did not state their pre-intervention position as to the  
445 minimum number of sessions a participant would need to attend to be considered as having  
446 completed the intervention. Bias may be introduced if the minimum number of sessions was  
447 changed after the study commenced. Many studies also reported limited information  
448 regarding items such as session attendance rates of treatment completers, homework  
449 completion and instructor training, making it difficult to properly assess the risk of  
450 performance bias.  
451

452 **Table 5**453 *Risk of bias assessment for reviewed studies*

Study	Confounding bias <sup>a</sup>	Selection bias <sup>b</sup>	Misclassification bias	Performance bias	Attrition bias	Detection bias	Reporting bias
Bazzano et al. (2015)	Serious	Low	Moderate	Unclear	Low	Serious	Moderate
Bögels et al. (2008)	Serious	Low	Moderate	Low	Low	Serious	Moderate
Bögels et al. (2014)	Serious	Low	Moderate	Low	Low	Serious	Moderate
Corthorn (2018)	Serious	Low	Unclear	Unclear	Moderate	Serious	Moderate
Chan & Neece (2018) <sup>#</sup>	-	Low	Unclear	Low	Low	Serious	Moderate
Chaplin et al. (2018) <sup>#</sup>	-	Unclear	Unclear	Unclear	Low	Serious	Moderate
De Bruin et al. (2015)	Serious	Low	Unclear	Low	Low	Serious	Moderate
Eames et al. (2015)	Serious	Low	Low	Unclear	Serious	Serious	Moderate
Ferraioli & Harris (2013) <sup>#</sup>	-	Unclear	Unclear	Low	Moderate	Serious	Moderate
Haydicky et al. (2015)	Serious	Low	Moderate	Low	Moderate	Serious	Moderate
Jones et al. (2017)	Serious	Low	Unclear	Unclear	Moderate	Serious	Moderate
Lewallen & Neece (2015)	Serious	Low	Unclear	Unclear	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Lo et al. (2017a) <sup>#</sup>	-	Unclear	Unclear	Low	Low	Serious	Moderate
Lo et al. (2017b) <sup>#</sup>	-	Low	Unclear	Low	Low	Moderate	Low
Maloney & Altmaier (2007)	Serious	Low	Unclear	Unclear	Unclear	Serious	Critical
Mann et al. (2016) <sup>#</sup>	-	Low	Moderate	Low	Moderate	Serious	Low
Meppelink et al. (2016)	Serious	Low	Unclear	Unclear	Moderate	Serious	Moderate
Neece (2014) <sup>#</sup>	-	Low	Unclear	Low	Low	Serious	Moderate
Potharst et al. (2017)	Serious	Low	Unclear	Low	Moderate	Serious	Moderate

454

455 *Table 5 continued*

Study	Confounding bias <sup>a</sup>	Selection bias <sup>b</sup>	Misclassification bias	Performance bias	Attrition bias	Detection bias	Reporting bias
Potharst et al. (2018a)	Serious	Low	Moderate	Low	Moderate	Serious	Moderate
Racey et al. (2017)	Serious	Low	Moderate	Moderate	Critical	Critical	Moderate
Ridderinkhof et al. (2017)	Serious	Low	Unclear	Moderate	Moderate	Serious	Moderate
Short et al. (2017)	Serious	Low	Unclear	Moderate	Low	Serious	Moderate
van de Weijer-Bergsma et al. (2012)	Serious	Low	Unclear	Low	Moderate	Moderate	Serious
van der Oord et al. (2012)	Serious	Low	Low	Low	Low	Serious	Moderate
Voos (2017)	Serious	Low	Moderate	Unclear	Moderate	Serious	Moderate
Xu (2017)	Serious	Low	Unclear	Unclear	Serious	Serious	Moderate
Zhang et al. (2017)	Serious	Low	Unclear	Moderate	Low	Serious	Moderate

456 *Note.* <sup>#</sup>RCT. For all RCTs in this table, the terms used to describe the level of bias have been changed from “Low”, “High” and “Unclear” (used in the RoB tool), to “Low”,  
457 “Moderate”, “Serious”, “Critical” and “Unclear”, to reflect the terms and judgment guidelines used in ROBINS-I; <sup>a</sup>not relevant for RCTs; <sup>b</sup>For RCTs, the assessment of  
458 selection bias asks (1) whether there was random sequence generation and (2) whether there was allocation concealment. In this table, only one risk assessment is reported for  
459 RCTs under this bias domain, as the level of risk assessed for these two aspects of selection bias was equal for each of the reviewed RCTs.

460

## Discussion

461 This review examined 25 independent studies of mindfulness interventions delivered  
462 to parents. We systematically evaluated the effectiveness of these interventions in reducing  
463 parenting stress and improving youth psychological outcomes. The results of the review show  
464 that mindfulness interventions for parents are associated with small to moderate immediate  
465 and maintained reductions in parenting stress. Reductions in parenting stress are greater for  
466 parents who attend mindfulness intervention groups than for those who attend control groups.  
467 Results also show that mindfulness interventions for parents are associated with small  
468 immediate and maintained improvements for youth across internalizing, externalizing,  
469 cognitive, and social domains of psychological functioning. Improvements in youth  
470 externalizing and cognitive outcomes are predicted by reductions in parenting stress, but no  
471 relationship was found between youth internalizing outcomes and parenting stress. There  
472 were insufficient studies to test the relationship between parenting stress and social outcomes.

### 473 Parenting Stress

474 For parenting stress, the small within-group reduction ( $g = 0.34$ ) obtained  
475 immediately after intervention rose to a moderate reduction ( $g = 0.53$ ) 2 months later. This  
476 suggests that the positive impact on parenting stress of the mindfulness intervention  
477 continued after the intervention ended. Two studies also measured parenting stress 1 year  
478 after the intervention, both reporting the maintenance of small to moderate reductions in  
479 parenting stress at that point. The five controlled studies reviewed showed that mindfulness  
480 interventions have a small to moderate advantage ( $g = 0.44$ ) over active and waitlist controls  
481 in reducing parenting stress. These results, together with the finding that pre-test mindful  
482 parenting scores are negatively correlated with post-test parenting stress, but not vice versa  
483 (Haydicky et al., 2015), provide initial evidence that mindfulness interventions for parents  
484 contribute to reduced parenting stress.

485 To place our findings regarding the parenting stress effect size into context, we sought  
486 to compare the current results against those obtained in other meta-analyses. We were unable  
487 to find meta-analyses of mindfulness or other interventions that aimed at lowering parenting  
488 stress specifically. However, Lundahl et al. (2006a) assessed parental emotional adjustment,  
489 which incorporated parenting stress. They reported a moderate within-group improvement in  
490 that outcome, in their review of parent programs to reduce child abuse. The post-intervention  
491 effect in that study ( $d = 0.53$ ) was larger than in the present study ( $g = 0.34$ ). This may have  
492 been because the measure of parental emotional adjustment included a number of negative  
493 emotional states, such as anger, in addition to parenting stress. It is therefore possible that the  
494 effect size was driven by improvements in emotional states other than parenting stress.

495 We also sought to compare the advantage we found for mindfulness interventions  
496 over control groups to that found for other parent interventions. Again, we were unable to  
497 find any published meta-analyses concerning parenting stress as a standalone outcome.  
498 However, Lundahl et al. (2006b) reviewed the effects of parent training programs on a  
499 composite parenting outcome, which included parenting stress. Lundahl et al. (2006b)  
500 defined behavioral training programs as those teaching parents to reinforce their children's  
501 positive behavior and ignore or punish poor behavior. Non-behavioral programs were defined  
502 as those that did not teach these specific skills, and included programs aimed at improving  
503 parent-child communication or altering child-related cognitions. Based on this definition,  
504 mindfulness interventions are non-behavioral programs, and indeed the advantage over  
505 controls in the present study ( $g = 0.44$ ) is similar to that found by Lundahl et al. (2006b) for  
506 non-behavioral parent programs ( $d = 0.48$ ). The advantage of behavioral programs over  
507 controls was slightly larger ( $d = 0.53$ ).

508 Interestingly, this review also found that the reduction in parenting stress was greater  
509 at follow up than post-intervention. This is in contrast to the pattern reported for behavioral

510 parent training by Lee et al. (2012), who found a reduced effect at follow-up for a composite  
511 parenting outcome that included parenting stress. Similarly, the effects of cognitive  
512 behavioral therapy for general stress are maintained at follow up, but not increased (Hofmann  
513 et al., 2012). The present results suggest, therefore, that mindfulness interventions provide  
514 durable outcomes for parents, and compare favorably in this respect to behavioral parent  
515 training and cognitive behavioral therapy.

516 Heterogeneity in relation to parenting stress is moderate to high, indicating variance  
517 in the true effect size across studies. Possible reasons for this variability were tested through  
518 categorical moderator analyses and meta-regression. The reduction in parenting stress was  
519 not moderated by either youth age or clinical status, or the length of the mindfulness course.  
520 This suggests that parents acquire generic skills in mindfulness programs lasting from 9 to 27  
521 h, that they are able to apply in various parenting environments, and across their child's  
522 development. In contrast, the reduction in parenting stress was greater when the intervention  
523 was delivered only to parents, than when it was delivered to parallel parent and youth groups.  
524 This result was surprising, since it is reasonable to expect that training both parents and their  
525 children in mindfulness would contribute to better outcomes, given the bi-directionality of  
526 parent and child factors (Branje et al., 2010; Neece, 2014). To investigate this result further,  
527 the characteristics of the two subgroups were checked. Of the six studies in the parallel  
528 interventions subgroup, five involved youth diagnosed with ADHD. However, amongst the  
529 15 studies in the parent-only intervention subgroup, only three involved parents whose  
530 children had been diagnosed with ADHD. Further, these three studies reported only 47, 31,  
531 and 7% of the parents' children as having ADHD. While no conclusion can be drawn, it is  
532 possible that the smaller reduction in parenting stress amongst parents in the parallel  
533 intervention subgroup is related to their child's diagnosis of ADHD, rather than the fact that  
534 both parents and their children received the intervention.

## 535 **Youth Outcomes**

536           The results of our review show that mindfulness interventions for parents are  
537 associated with improved youth outcomes. The summary effects indicate small, within-group  
538 improvements in internalizing ( $g = 0.29$ ), externalizing ( $g = 0.26$ ), cognitive ( $g = 0.27$ ), and  
539 social ( $g = 0.28$ ) domains. These improvements are maintained after 2 months for the  
540 internalizing ( $g = 0.33$ ), externalizing ( $g = 0.39$ ), and cognitive ( $g = 0.40$ ) domains. There  
541 were insufficient studies to conduct a follow-up analysis for the social domain. There were  
542 also insufficient controlled studies to conduct a quantitative comparison of intervention  
543 groups with controls, for any of the youth outcomes. The results reported by the few studies  
544 that included a control group are mixed, with mindfulness groups outperforming waitlist  
545 controls in some studies but not others, for both internalizing and externalizing outcomes.

546           This is the first published meta-analysis regarding the effectiveness of mindfulness  
547 interventions for parents in improving youth outcomes. There are, therefore, no equivalent  
548 studies to compare the effects found in the present review against. A review of mindfulness  
549 interventions delivered to children and adolescents in schools found within-group effects for  
550 emotional problems and cognitive performance of  $g = 0.31$  and  $g = 0.68$ , respectively (Zenner  
551 et al., 2014). It is possible that the effects reported in that study were larger than those in the  
552 present review because the interventions were delivered directly to the children and  
553 adolescents, rather than to parents. Looking at other parent-focused interventions, a meta-  
554 meta-analysis of studies for treating youth with externalizing disorders obtained effects for  
555 youth outcomes (externalizing and internalizing problems combined) of  $d = 0.46$  post-  
556 intervention and  $d = 0.49$  at follow-up (Mingebach et al., 2018). The larger improvements  
557 found in that review may reflect the fact that the majority of reviewed studies involved  
558 behavioral parent training interventions. Mindfulness interventions for parents appear,



559 therefore, to be associated with smaller improvements in youth outcomes than either  
560 behavioral parent training or mindfulness interventions for youth.

561 Heterogeneity in connection with youth outcomes is low to moderate. Mindfulness  
562 interventions for parents are associated with equally beneficial outcomes for children and  
563 adolescents, whether they attend mindfulness training in parallel with their parents or not, and  
564 regardless of the length of the mindfulness course. These results together suggest that even  
565 shorter mindfulness programs can result in changes to parental functioning that are positive  
566 for youth of any age. Meta-regressions were conducted to check whether change in parenting  
567 stress predicted youth outcomes. Greater reductions in parenting stress did predict greater  
568 improvements in youth externalizing and cognitive outcomes. This finding is consistent with  
569 previous studies showing that parenting stress is related to harsh, over-reactive parenting  
570 (Venta et al., 2016), and that harsh parenting predicts later youth behavior problems and  
571 poorer attentional regulation (Eisenberg et al., 1999; Rominov et al., 2016). Therefore,  
572 reductions in parenting stress may improve externalizing and cognitive outcomes.

573 Unlike externalizing and cognitive outcomes, reductions in parenting stress did not  
574 predict improvements in youth internalizing outcomes. There are a number of possible  
575 explanations for this. While youth externalizing problems can be aversive to parents and  
576 contribute to higher parenting stress (Eisenberg et al., 1999; Neece et al., 2012), youth  
577 internalizing problems tend to be subtle and non-aversive (Eisenberg et al., 1999).  
578 Accordingly, it is possible that parents of youth with internalizing problems have a lower  
579 baseline level of parenting stress than do parents of youth with externalizing problems. In this  
580 case, we would expect a mindfulness intervention for parents of youth with internalizing  
581 problems to have less of an impact on parenting stress. Any relationship between change in  
582 parenting stress and change in internalizing problems may therefore be too small to detect.  
583 Mindfulness interventions for parents could also affect youth internalizing outcomes through

584 a pathway other than parenting stress. For example, greater parental warmth and acceptance  
585 toward children are associated with lower youth internalizing problems (Yap & Jorm, 2015).  
586 As mindful parenting involves compassion, emotional warmth, and non-judgmental  
587 acceptance toward a child (Duncan et al., 2009, 2015), mindfulness interventions may  
588 improve internalizing outcomes by promoting these attitudes in parents. Internalizing  
589 problems are also associated with difficulties with emotion regulation (Suveg & Zeman,  
590 2004). For example, greater use by parents of adaptive emotion regulation strategies, such as  
591 cognitive reappraisal, are associated with lower youth anxiety (Wald et al., 2018). Since  
592 mindful parenting is also associated with greater parental self-regulation (Duncan et al., 2009;  
593 Ridderinkhof et al., 2017), mindfulness interventions could reduce youth internalizing  
594 problems by facilitating healthier forms of emotional regulation in parents.

#### 595 **Methodological Limitations**

596 There are several limitations affecting the strength of the evidence provided by both  
597 this review and the individual studies reviewed. At the review level, the number of studies  
598 available for inclusion is still small. For this reason, we treated studies of mindful parenting  
599 interventions and studies of other mindfulness-based interventions delivered to parents as a  
600 single group. However, it is not currently known whether these two types of mindfulness  
601 intervention have different outcomes for parents or youth, or whether they exert their effects  
602 through different pathways. The number of available studies also had implications for testing  
603 potential moderators, such as parent clinical status. It may also have affected our ability to  
604 detect significant moderators and covariates. For example, although we found no relationship  
605 between the length of the mindfulness course and either parenting stress or youth outcomes,  
606 some other meta-analyses have found dose-response relationships for a range of outcomes  
607 (Khoury et al., 2013; Zenner et al., 2014; cf. Vollestad et al., 2012). In general, due to the  
608 relatively small number of studies in this review, some caution should be applied to the

609 interpretation of the moderator and meta-regression analyses. As more research is published  
610 on mindfulness interventions for parents, future reviews with greater power will provide  
611 more accurate information regarding significant moderators or covariates.

612         At the individual study level, small sample sizes are likely to have contributed to a  
613 lack of statistical power to detect significant effects in a number of studies. A scan of Tables  
614 2, 3 reveals several moderate to large effects, both post-intervention and at follow up, that are  
615 reported as non-significant. The availability of small samples may have been a reason for the  
616 single group design used in most of the reviewed studies. Due to the lack of randomization to  
617 intervention or control groups, we cannot conclude that the reported effects are caused by the  
618 mindfulness intervention. This is particularly the case for the various outcomes (anxiety,  
619 depression, well-being, rumination, and executive functioning) that significantly improved at  
620 follow up, but not immediately post-intervention. This longer term effect is consistent with  
621 the self-sustaining change proposed to be the result of mindfulness practice (Dumas, 2005).  
622 However, childhood is an ongoing period of development in which changes may occur in  
623 various domains of functioning over time, for many reasons. When more time has passed, it  
624 is more likely that extraneous variables may have contributed to changes in outcomes,  
625 making the causal link between the intervention and the effect more tenuous.

626         All studies were judged to have at least a serious risk of bias. Whilst this was partly  
627 due to the lack of randomization noted above, the subjective reporting of most outcomes in  
628 each study was also an issue. In the context of mindfulness interventions, which parents must  
629 invest a significant amount of time and effort to attend, relying on parent reports may  
630 increase the risk of detection bias. Although it is difficult to address this issue in studies in  
631 which many outcomes must be subjectively reported, obtaining reports from different  
632 sources, such as mothers, fathers, youth and teachers, and obtaining objective measures if  
633 possible, may give a more complete picture. For example, Lewallen and Neece (2015) found

634 that teachers reported significant improvements in more social domains than parents did. This  
635 suggests that youth outcomes may differ across contexts. Similarly, the differences between  
636 mothers and fathers in post-intervention parenting stress (van de Weijer-Bergsma et al., 2012)  
637 might indicate a systematic difference in how mothers and fathers respond to a mindfulness  
638 intervention. Finally, assessment of treatment adherence and integrity was problematic in  
639 many studies, as limited information was reported regarding session attendance rates,  
640 homework completion or instructor training. Lack of detailed implementation-related data  
641 appears to be a common issue in connection with mindfulness interventions (Vollestad et al.,  
642 2012; Zou et al., 2018).

### 643 **Future Directions**

644 The results of this review show that further research on mindfulness interventions for  
645 parents is desirable. Future studies are needed to address the methodological limitations  
646 identified above. For example, there is evidence that variables such as therapist experience  
647 with mindfulness (Khoury et al., 2013), amount of home practice (Parsons et al., 2017) and  
648 total time of mindfulness training (Zenner et al., 2014) can moderate outcomes. Inclusion of  
649 more information on these variables would allow reviewers to investigate more potential  
650 moderators. In addition, randomizing participants to control and intervention groups would  
651 allow firmer conclusions to be drawn about whether mindfulness in parenting played a causal  
652 role in relevant outcomes.

653 Use of randomized controlled studies would also allow comparisons to be made  
654 between mindfulness interventions and other active interventions such as behavioral parent  
655 training. For youth with externalizing problems, behavioral parent training is an effective and  
656 widely used intervention (Dretzke et al., 2009). However, some parents, such as those with  
657 their own psychopathology, benefit less from behavioral parent training than others (Maliken  
658 & Katz, 2013). This may be because these parents find it difficult to apply new parenting

659 skills in stressful situations with their child and revert to old patterns of responding in those  
660 situations (Siegel & Hartzell, 2004). Given its focus upon reducing parenting stress,  
661 mindfulness-based interventions might be of greater benefit to these families than behavioral  
662 parent training.

663         The majority of studies involved parents with children under 12 years, or parents  
664 managing youth externalizing problems. Very few studies included parents of youth with  
665 internalizing problems. It is therefore recommended that additional research be done in  
666 community samples or in clinical samples of families experiencing youth internalizing  
667 problems. As no relationship was found between parenting stress and youth internalizing  
668 outcomes, research with these samples could investigate whether mindfulness in parenting is  
669 associated with potential mediators other than parenting stress. These could include parental  
670 factors known to be associated with youth internalizing problems. Finally, relatively few  
671 studies examined outcomes for families with adolescents and only one of these (Corthorn,  
672 2018) included parents of adolescents without a clinical diagnosis. Adolescence is associated  
673 with increased negative affect (Kim et al., 2001) and conflict (Laursen et al., 1998), and may  
674 be a time of potentially stressful change in the parent-child relationship (Duncan et al., 2009).  
675 Importantly, it is also a time when many psychological disorders are first diagnosed  
676 (Copeland et al., 2009). Research could usefully address the question of whether mindfulness  
677 interventions for parents of adolescents are effective as a preventive intervention for  
678 adolescent psychological problems.

## 679 **Conclusion**

680         The results of the present review show that mindfulness interventions for parents are  
681 associated with reduced parenting stress for parents of both children and adolescents. They  
682 are also associated with improved youth psychological functioning across internalizing,  
683 externalizing, cognitive, and social domains. Reduced parenting stress predicts improvement

684 in youth externalizing and cognitive outcomes, but not youth internalizing outcomes.  
685 Methodological weaknesses in the available literature prevent firm conclusions from being  
686 drawn regarding the causal role of mindfulness training for parents in relation to each of these  
687 outcomes. Further research is recommended to address limitations in the current literature  
688 and questions raised by this review.  
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## CHAPTER THREE. Confirmatory Factor Analyses

### The Interpersonal Mindfulness in Parenting Scale: Factor structure in mothers of children and infants

Chapter 3 contains confirmatory factor analyses of the Interpersonal Mindfulness in Parenting scale. The fit of several models of mindful parenting are tested, in English-language mothers of children and mothers of infants.

This Chapter reproduces the parts of the published article referred to below (Appendix B1) that relate to the factor structure of the IMP, but omits the parts relating to associations with child internalizing problems. To maintain the continuity and meaning of the text in Chapter 3 after the omissions, and to ensure that its format is consistent with the layout of this thesis, minor amendments have been made to the retained aspects of the published article.

Burgdorf, V., & Szabó, M. (2021). The Interpersonal Mindfulness in Parenting Scale in mothers of children and infants: Factor structure and associations with child internalizing problems. *Frontiers in Psychology, 11*:633709. doi: 10.3389/fpsyg.2020.633709

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## Abstract

**Objectives:** Mindful parenting is beneficial for parents and children. It is proposed that mindful parenting is comprised of five dimensions, measured by the 31-item Interpersonal Mindfulness in Parenting scale (IMP). However, the IMP has not been validated in English-speaking parents, and investigations of the factor structure of translated versions of the IMP have not supported the proposed dimensions. Further, little is known about whether mindful parenting is similar in parents of children and parents of infants. We therefore sought to validate the IMP in English-speaking mothers of children and mothers of infants.

**Methods:** Using confirmatory factor analyses, we examined the fit of the originally hypothesized 5-factor model of mindful parenting, and the later, empirically derived 6-factor Dutch and 5-factor Portuguese models of mindful parenting. We did this in separate groups of English-speaking community-recruited mothers of children aged 3–18 years ( $n = 396$ ) and infants aged 0–2 years ( $n = 320$ ).

**Results:** The original model of mindful parenting, proposed to be measured by the 31-item IMP, was a poor fit in both groups of mothers. However, the 6-factor Dutch and 5-factor Portuguese versions of the IMP, which each excluded items 3 and 6, were a good fit. These two versions of the IMP operate similarly for mothers of children and infants.

**Conclusions:** The IMP is a valid measure of mindful parenting in English-speaking mothers of children and mothers of infants. The construct of mindful parenting is similar for both groups of mothers.



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## Introduction

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Mindful parenting has been defined as parenting with the aim of paying non-judgmental, non-reactive attention to each moment and interaction with the child (Kabat-Zinn & Kabat-Zinn, 1997). Mindful parents are thought to be able to regulate their parenting behaviors to better support their child's needs (Duncan et al., 2009). Indeed, a recent meta-analysis has shown that mindful parenting interventions are associated with reductions in parenting stress and children's externalizing and internalizing problems (Burgdorf et al., 2019). The Interpersonal Mindfulness in Parenting scale (IMP; Duncan, 2007; Duncan et al., 2009) is the most widely used instrument in mindful parenting research. However, the current version of the IMP has not been validated in an English-speaking population, and little is known about its psychometric properties in mothers of children or infants. This study aimed to address these issues.

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The first instrument developed to measure the construct of mindful parenting was the 10-item IMP, which was originally developed for parents of adolescents (Duncan, 2007). The IMP was subsequently expanded to a 31-item instrument, which was proposed to involve five dimensions (Duncan et al., 2009): Listening with Full Attention (LFA), Non-judgmental Acceptance of Self and Child (NJA-SC), Compassion for Self and Child (C-SC), Emotional Awareness of Self and Child (EA-SC), and Self-regulation in Parenting (SRP). Although the IMP has been widely used in research since its development, there are currently no published studies validating this proposed five factor structure in an English-language population.

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A small number of studies have explored the factor structure of translated versions of the IMP. The first such study tested a Dutch translation of the IMP in a Dutch community sample of mothers of 12–15-year-old ( $M = 13.3$  years) adolescents (de Bruin et al., 2014). The results did not support Duncan et al.'s proposed 5-factor model. Instead, exploratory and confirmatory factor analyses suggested six factors. The primary difference between de Bruin

756 et al.'s findings and Duncan et al.'s proposed model was that the parent- and child-focussed  
757 items relating to compassion, non-judgment and emotional awareness loaded on separate  
758 factors, resulting in the six empirically derived dimensions of (1) Listening with Full  
759 Attention (LFA), (2) Non-judgmental Acceptance of Parental Functioning (NJAPF), (3)  
760 Compassion for the Child (CC), (4) Emotional Awareness of the Child (EAC), (5) Emotional  
761 Non-reactivity in Parenting (ENRP), and (6) Emotional Awareness of Self (EAS). In  
762 addition, items 3 and 6 were excluded due to low factor loadings, resulting in a 29-item six-  
763 factor instrument (de Bruin et al). Another translation of the IMP was tested in a Portuguese-  
764 speaking community group of mothers of 1–18-year-olds ( $M = 5.86$  years) (Moreira &  
765 Canavarro, 2017). Exploratory and confirmatory factor analyses supported the deletion of  
766 items 3 and 6, but the findings concerning factor structure were somewhat different from the  
767 findings of de Bruin et al. (2014). Listening with Full Attention, Non-judgmental Acceptance  
768 of Parental Functioning, Compassion for the Child and Emotional Awareness of the Child  
769 contained largely the same items as the Dutch LFA, NJAPF, CC, and EAC factors. However,  
770 in this study a new Self-regulation in Parenting (SRP) factor emerged, combining the items  
771 from the Dutch ENRP and EAS factors, resulting in a 29-item, five-factor model.  
772 Translations of the IMP have also been tested in non-Western countries, including in Hong  
773 Kong Chinese parents of 2–19-year-olds (Lo et al., 2018) and Korean parents of 1–18 year-  
774 olds (Kim et al., 2018). Numerous items were deleted in both studies, suggesting that the  
775 English-language IMP may not easily translate to all other languages or cultures (Lo et al.,  
776 2018).

777         While the differences between the Asian and European studies' findings may be due  
778 to linguistic or cultural variations, the differences in the results reported by de Bruin et al.  
779 (2014) and Moreira and Canavarro (2017) could partly reflect the differing ages of the  
780 children involved in the two studies. Children have different parenting requirements at

781 different developmental stages, such as physical proximity during infancy and autonomy  
782 support during adolescence (Karavasilis et al., 2003). It is therefore likely that mindful  
783 parenting behaviors differ at different child developmental stages, and separate mindful  
784 parenting programs have been offered for parents of infants and children (for example,  
785 Potharst et al., 2017). Such differences are not reflected in the current version of the IMP,  
786 however. Indeed, some IMP items have limited face validity for parents of pre-verbal  
787 children. For example, item 4 (“I listen carefully to my child’s ideas, even when I disagree  
788 with them”) may only be relevant for parents with children who can express themselves  
789 verbally. Therefore, the structure of the IMP should be examined separately in parents of pre-  
790 verbal infants and parents of children, to clarify whether the IMP operates equivalently for  
791 these two groups of parents.

792         Given the growing research interest in mindful parenting programs, the issues raised  
793 above regarding the IMP need to be addressed. The aim of this study was to examine the fit  
794 of the model of mindful parenting proposed by Duncan et al. (2009), as well as the two  
795 empirically derived models reported by de Bruin et al. (2014) and Moreira and Canavarro  
796 (2017), in English-speaking parents, using confirmatory factor analyses (CFAs). We  
797 conducted these analyses separately in parents of infants and parents of children, to explore  
798 possible differences in the factor structure of the IMP for these two groups of parents.

## 799   **Methods**

### 800     **Participants and Procedures**

801         The study procedures were approved by The University of Sydney Human Research  
802 Ethics Committee (approval number 183/2019 and 440/2019). A total of 990 participants  
803 were recruited from the community, using targeted Facebook advertisements. The  
804 advertisement contained a link to the information statement and consent form, hosted on the  
805 secure data collection website Qualtrics. People were invited to take part if English was their

806 primary language and they were a parent, or acting in the role of parent, to at least one child  
807 aged 0–20 years. There were no exclusion criteria. Participants with more than one child were  
808 asked to answer the parenting questions with regard to just one of their children.

809 From the 990 participants who provided informed consent, 765 participants  
810 completed the demographic data and the IMP (Duncan et al., 2009). To increase consistency  
811 with de Bruin et al. (2014) and Moreira and Canavarro (2017), we removed the data of  
812 fathers ( $n = 41$ ) and the data of parents of children aged 19–20 years of age ( $n = 8$ ), leaving  
813 data for the confirmatory factor analyses from 716 mothers (or other female caregivers) of  
814 children aged 0–18 years. The age of the mothers or other female caregivers of infants  
815 ranged from 22 to 56 years ( $M = 32.25$ ;  $SD = 4.79$ ) and their infants' mean age was 0.90  
816 years ( $SD = 0.78$ ). Mothers or other female caregivers of children were aged between 26 and  
817 58 years ( $M = 39.21$ ,  $SD = 6.60$ ), and the mean age of their children was 8.23 years ( $SD =$   
818 4.21). Table 1 contains further information on sample characteristics.

819 As shown in Table 1, there were several demographic differences between the two  
820 groups of mothers. Compared to mothers of children, more mothers of infants identified as a  
821 primary carer rather than as an equal carer, and families of infants generally had fewer  
822 children. A slightly higher proportion of mothers of infants also reported having previously  
823 been diagnosed with a mental health condition and having a history of practicing  
824 mindfulness. Amongst mothers who reported a history of mindfulness practice, slightly more  
825 mothers of children than infants reported that they currently practiced mindfulness at least  
826 monthly.

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Characteristic	Parents of children <i>n</i> = 396		Parents of infants <i>n</i> = 320		Difference between groups	
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	$\chi^2$ ( <i>df</i> )	$\phi_c$
Child gender					1.78	.05
Male	161	50.3	192	48.6		
Female	201	50.9	159	49.7		
Other	2	0.5				
Parent relation to child					0.34	.02
Biological mother	386	97.5	314	98.1		
Other female caregiver	10	2.5	6	1.9		
Caregiver role					9.57**	.12
Primary carer	271	68.4	252	78.8		
Equal carer <sup>a</sup>	121	30.6	66	20.6		
Secondary carer	4	1.0	2	0.6		
No. children in family					205.16***	.54
1	75	18.9	228	71.3		
2	198	50.0	70	21.9		
3	100	25.3	14	4.4		
≥ 4	23	5.8	8	2.5		
Parent country of residence					3.00	.07
Australia	304	78.6	232	73.0		
Other	83	21.6	86	29.1		
Parent highest level of education					0.02	.01
Post-graduate or Bachelor degree	290	73.8	236	73.8		
Associate degree/vocational training	53	13.5	44	13.8		
Secondary school or other	50	12.8	40	12.5		
Parent previous mental health diagnosis					5.36*	.09
No	248	62.6	173	54.1		
Yes	148	37.4	147	45.9		
History of formal mindfulness practice					4.74*	0.08
Yes	144	36.4	142	44.4		
No	252	63.6	178	55.6		
Length of mindfulness practice					2.35	.08
< 1 year	64	46.0	68	48.9		
≥ 1 year	75	54.0	71	51.1		

831 *Table 1 continued*

Frequency of mindfulness practice					4.85*	0.11
< Monthly	50	36.0	80	57.6		
≥ Monthly	89	64.0	59	42.4		

832 *Note.*  $\phi_C$  is Cramer's V effect size, where 0.1-0.3 is a small effect, 0.3-0.5 a moderate effect and >0.5 a large  
 833 effect (Cohen, 1988).

834 <sup>a</sup>Equal carer is a parent who reports sharing the care of their child approximately equally with another person.

835 \* $p \leq .05$ . \*\* $p \leq .01$ . \*\*\* $p \leq .001$ .

836

837 **Measures**

838 Demographics and Mindfulness Practice Questionnaire: demographic information  
 839 was collected from participants on the variables presented in Table 1. Participants were also  
 840 asked whether they had ever engaged in formal mindfulness or other form of meditation or  
 841 contemplative practice. Response options were one or more of mindfulness, yoga, tai chi,  
 842 other (*participant to specify*) or none. Participants who indicated some form of past formal  
 843 practice were asked to indicate approximately how long they had engaged in that practice.  
 844 For the purposes of the analyses in this paper, answers were dichotomized into “*less than 1*  
 845 *year*” and “*1 year or more*.” For those currently practicing, the reported frequency of practice  
 846 was dichotomized into “*less than monthly*” and “*monthly or more*.” The data reported in this  
 847 paper relate only to history, length and frequency of formal mindfulness practice.

848 Interpersonal Mindfulness in Parenting scale (IMP; Duncan, 2007, Duncan et al.,  
 849 2009): the 31-item IMP measures mindfulness in the parenting context. The items are rated  
 850 using a 5-point Likert-type scale, where 1 = *Never true*, 2 = *Rarely true*, 3 = *Sometimes true*,  
 851 4 = *Often true* and 5 = *Always true*. A total score is calculated by summing the items, with 14  
 852 items (1, 5, 9–15, 17, 19, 23, 26 and 29) reverse coded. Higher scores indicate more mindful  
 853 parenting.

## 854 **Statistical Analysis**

855           The confirmatory factor analyses were conducted using AMOS version 25. To check  
856 whether the data met the assumption of multivariate normality of distribution underlying  
857 structural equation modeling, we screened for multivariate kurtosis and outliers. In both  
858 groups of mothers, screening revealed mild multivariate kurtosis and no clear outliers based  
859 on an examination of the squared Mahalanobis distance for each case. Goodness-of-fit was  
860 assessed against several indices in addition to the chi-square test. Good and adequate fit were  
861 indicated, respectively, by normed chi-square ( $\chi^2/df$ )  $\leq 2$  and  $\leq 5$ , a comparative fit index  
862 (CFI)  $\geq 0.95$  and  $\geq 0.90$ , root-mean-square error of approximation (RMSEA)  $\leq 0.05$  and  $\leq$   
863  $0.08$ , and standardized root mean square residual (SRMR)  $\leq 0.08$  and  $\leq 0.10$  (Byrne, 2010).

## 864 **Results**

### 865 **Confirmatory Factor Analysis**

866           We began by testing the fit of the Duncan et al. (2009), de Bruin et al. (2014), and  
867 Moreira and Canavarro (2017) models in mothers of children. The fit indices are in Table 2.  
868 Based on all the indices used, Duncan et al.'s proposed model (Model C.1) was a poor fit to  
869 the data. The factor loadings for items 3 and 6 were low (0.07 and 0.21, respectively) and the  
870 loading for item 3 was non-significant. Due to the poor model fit, we did not examine  
871 modification indices for this model.

872

873 **Table 2**874 *Fit indices from the confirmatory factor analyses, for mothers of children (n = 396)*

	Model	$\chi^2$	df	$\chi^2/df$	CFI	RMSEA	90% CI for RMSEA	SRMR	Change from previous model ( $\Delta\chi^2$ )
C.1	Duncan et al., 31 items	1698.70**	424	4.01	.750	.087	[.083, .092]	.1027	-
C.2	de Bruin et al., 31 items	944.81**	419	2.26	.897	.056	[.052, .061]	.0686	-
C.3	de Bruin et al., 29 items (excluding items 3 & 6)	764.36**	362	2.11	.919	.053	[.048, .058]	.0592	180.45(57)*
C.4	de Bruin et al., 29 items (covary e18 & e20)	733.53**	361	2.03	.925	.051	[.046, .056]	.0598	30.83(1)*
C.5	de Bruin et al., 29 items (cross- load item 24)	693.41**	360	1.93	.933	.048	[.043, .054]	.0575	40.12(1)*
C.6	Moreira & Canavarro, 29 items	835.13**	367	2.28	.906	.057	[.052, .062]	.0623	-
C.7	Moreira & Canavarro, 29 items (covary e18 & e20)	808.74**	366	2.21	.911	.055	[.050, .060]	.0628	26.39(1)*
C.8	Moreira & Canavarro, 29 items (cross- load item 24)	780.16**	365	2.14	.916	.054	[.048, .059]	.0622	28.58(1)*
C.9	Moreira & Canavarro, 29 items (covary e2 & e21)	743.53**	364	2.04	.924	.051	[.046, .057]	.0605	36.36(1)*

875 *Note.* CFI is Comparative fit index; RMSEA is root-mean-square error of approximation; SRMR is standardized  
876 root mean square residual.877 \* $p < .01$ . \*\* $p < .001$ .

878

879 Next, we examined the fit of the de Bruin et al. model. We began by specifying a six-  
880 factor model containing all 31 IMP items (Model C.2), to check whether items 3 and 6  
881 remained problematic. The factor loadings for items 3 (0.08) and 6 (0.04) were again low and  
882 non-significant. We therefore excluded those items and specified a 29-item six-factor model



883 (Model C.3). The fit indices ranged from adequate to good, and the fit improved compared to  
884 Model C.2. The modification indices for Model C.3 suggested covariance between the errors  
885 for two items loading on NJAPF (items 18 and 20). Because both items were related to  
886 acceptance of parenting mistakes, we decided to allow these errors to covary (Model C.4).  
887 Model fit significantly improved and the fit indices ranged from adequate to good. The  
888 modification indices for Model C.4 indicated a cross-loading for item 24, on the CC factor.  
889 Item 24 refers to the parent paying close attention to the child when together. As this is  
890 similar to several CC items which refer to the parent being attentive to the child in different  
891 ways, we made this modification. The revised model (Model C.5) was a reasonably good fit  
892 to the data and an improvement on Model C.4. There were no further substantial or  
893 theoretically justified error covariances or model misspecifications indicated by the  
894 modification indices.

895 We then tested the 29-item, five-factor Moreira and Canavarro model (Model C.6) in  
896 mothers of children. Model C.6 was an adequate to good fit to the data. All factor loadings  
897 were significant. The loading for item 10 was 0.36, with all others  $>0.56$ . Like the de Bruin et  
898 al. model, modification indices suggested an error covariance for items 18 and 20. When this  
899 modification was made (Model C.7), the fit improved. The modification indices for Model  
900 C.7 suggested the same cross loading for item 24 on CC. When that cross-loading was  
901 allowed, the re-specified model (Model C.8) was again an improvement on the previous  
902 model. For Model C.8, modification indices suggested covariance between the errors for  
903 items 2 and 21, which both load on the SRP factor. As these items are similar and both relate  
904 to pausing before acting, we allowed this error covariance. This resulted in Model C.9, whose  
905 indices indicated an adequate to good fit to the data and were a significant improvement on  
906 the previous model. No further meaningful modifications were indicated.

907 In mothers of infants, we followed the same process as set out above. Table 3 contains  
 908 the fit indices for mothers of infants. The Duncan et al. model (Model I.1) exhibited a poor  
 909 fit. The factor loadings of items 3 and 6 were low (both 0.03) and nonsignificant, and the  
 910 loading for item 10 was low (0.24). We did not check modification indices for this model,  
 911 due to the poor fit.

912

913 **Table 3**

914 *Fit indices from the confirmatory factor analyses, for mothers of infants (n = 320)*

Model	$\chi^2$	df	$\chi^2/df$	CFI	RMSEA	90% CI for RMSEA	SRMR	Change from previous model ( $\Delta\chi^2$ )
I.1 Duncan et al., 31 items	1437.17**	424	3.39	.728	.087	[.082, .091]	.0953	-
I.2 de Bruin et al., 31 items	791.75**	419	1.89	.900	.053	[.047, .058]	.0705	-
I.3 de Bruin et al., 29 items (excluding items 3 & 6)	669.27**	362	1.85	.916	.052	[.045, .058]	.0662	122.48(57)*
I.4 de Bruin et al., 29 items (covary e4 & e28)	649.22**	361	1.80	.921	.050	[.044, .056]	.0662	20.05(1)*
I.5 de Bruin et al., 29 items (covary e4 & e7)	630.76**	360	1.75	.926	.049	[.042, .055]	.0660	18.46(1)*
I.6 Moreira & Canavarro, 29 items	705.06**	367	1.92	.907	.054	[.048, .060]	.0661	-
I.7 Moreira & Canavarro, 29 items (covary e14 & e29)	666.45**	366	1.82	.918	.051	[.045, .057]	.0649	38.61(1)*
I.8 Moreira & Canavarro, 29 items (covary e4 & e28)	645.71**	365	1.77	.923	.049	[.043, .055]	.0649	20.74(1)*
I.9 Moreira & Canavarro, 29 items (covary e4 & e7)	626.75**	364	1.72	.928	.048	[.041, .054]	.0646	18.96(1)*

915 *Note.* CFI is Comparative fit index; RMSEA is root-mean-square error of approximation; SRMR is standardized  
 916 root mean square residual.

917 \* $p < .01$ . \*\* $p < .001$ .

918 We then tested the de Bruin et al. model (Model I.2). The covariance matrix indicated  
919 a reasonably good fit to the observed matrix. The loadings for items 3 and 6 were low (both  
920 0.10) and non-significant. The factor loading for item 10 was also low (0.17), but significant  
921 ( $p < .001$ ). Therefore, items 3 and 6 were excluded and the model re-specified with 29 items  
922 (Model I.3). Modification indices suggested error covariances that differed from those found  
923 in the sample of mothers of children. For Model I.3, covariance between the errors for CC  
924 items 4 and 28, which refer to listening to the child's point of view, was suggested. These  
925 errors were allowed to covary, resulting in a significantly improved fit (Model I.4). The  
926 modification indices for Model I.4 then suggested covariance between a similar pair of items  
927 loading on CC. Items 4 and 7 both relate to allowing a child to express themselves, even in  
928 circumstances when this might be difficult for the parent. This modification was made,  
929 leading to a further improvement (Model I.5). The modification indices for Model I.5 did not  
930 indicate any substantial error covariances or misspecifications to the model.

931 Last, we examined the 29-item Moreira and Canavarro model in mothers of infants  
932 (Model I.6). Model I.6 was a reasonably good fit. Item 10 had the lowest factor loading  
933 (0.28), with all other loadings at least 0.44. All loadings were significant. The modification  
934 indices for Model I.6 indicated covariance between the errors for items 14 and 29. As these  
935 items both load on the SRP factor and refer to parental over-reactivity to the child when  
936 upset, they were allowed to covary. With the model re-specified (Model I.7), the fit  
937 improved. Modification indices for Model I.7 then suggested covarying errors for CC items 4  
938 and 28. When this modification was made, the fit improved (Model I.8). For Model I.8, the  
939 only substantial change suggested was the covariance of the errors for CC items 4 and 7.  
940 With this modification, the fit of the revised model (Model I.9) improved and exhibited a  
941 reasonably good fit to the data. No further modifications were warranted.

942 For both groups of mothers, fewer modifications needed to be made to the de Bruin et  
943 al. model to achieve optimum fit. The principal difference between the Moreira and  
944 Canavarro and de Bruin et al. models is that the items loading on the Dutch EAS and ENRP  
945 factors are combined into the single SRP factor in the Moreira and Canavarro model.  
946 Although the Dutch EAS and ENRP factors are closely related, they tap theoretically distinct  
947 aspects of parenting, that is emotional self-awareness and non-reactivity. We therefore  
948 decided to use the de Bruin et al. model in all following analyses to identify whether these  
949 two factors have unique predictive value. The factor loadings for the de Bruin et al. model for  
950 mothers of children and infants (Models C.5 and I.5), and the Cronbach's alpha for each  
951 scale, are presented in Table 4.  
952

953 **Table 4**

954 *Standardized factor loadings for 29-item de Bruin et al. model, for mothers of children (Model C.5) and infants (Model I.5)*

Item	Mothers of children (n = 396)						Mothers of infants (n = 320)					
	LFA	NJAPF	EAC	CC	EAS	ENRP	LFA	NJAPF	EAC	CC	EAS	ENRP
1 Listening to my child with one ear	.72						.65					
9 Rush through activities without being attentive	.79						.69					
13 Easily distracted when with my child	.77						.72					
19 Not listening, busy thinking about other things	.78						.76					
24 Pay close attention to child when together	.54			.32			.72					
15 Hard on myself regarding parenting mistakes		.70						.75				
17 Blame myself when times are difficult with child		.69						.76				
18 Accept parenting mistakes and move on		.60						.63				
20 Give myself a break if I regret my parenting actions		.55						.68				
23 Criticize myself for my parenting		.84						.76				
26 Think other parents have it easier with parenting		.64						.62				
12 Hard to tell what my child is feeling			.73						.62			
22 Find it easy to tell when my child is worried			.74						.69			
30 Can tell what my child is feeling			.85						.77			
4 Listening carefully to child's ideas				.64						.37		
7 Allow my child to express their feelings				.57						.62		
25 Kind to my child when they upset				.65						.67		
27 Nurturing with child when they having a difficult time				.69						.74		
28 Try to understand child's point of view				.71						.68		
31 Patient with child when they having a hard time				.70						.77		

955

956 *Table 4 continued*

Item	Mothers of children ( <i>n</i> = 396)						Mothers of infants ( <i>n</i> = 320)					
	LFA	NJAPF	EAC	CC	EAS	ENRP	LFA	NJAPF	EAC	CC	EAS	ENRP
2 Notice how I feel before I take action					.66					.65		
8 When upset, I calmly tell child how I feel					.65					.49		
16 Try to keep my emotions in balance when upset					.68					.72		
21 Pause before reacting, in difficult situations					.77					.71		
5 React too quickly to my child						.71						.67
10 Difficulty accepting child's growing independence						.34						.16
11 Only realize later that feelings affect parenting decisions						.64						.68
14 Do things I regret when my child misbehaves						.77						.76
29 Get carried away with my feelings when child upsets me						.76						.83
Cronbach's alpha for scale:	.87	.84	.81	.82	.78	.77	.83	.85	.73	.81	.73	.73

957 *Note.* LFA is the Listening with Full Attention scale of the Interpersonal Mindfulness in Parenting questionnaire (IMP); NJAPF is the Non-judgmental Acceptance of  
 958 Parental Functioning scale of the IMP; EAC is the Emotional Awareness of the Child scale of the IMP; CC is the Compassion for the Child scale of the IMP; EAS is the  
 959 Emotional Awareness of the Self scale of the IMP; ENRP is the Emotional Non-reactivity in Parenting scale of the IMP.

## 960 **Relationships Between IMP and Demographic and Mindfulness Practice Variables**

961           There were no significant relationships (all  $ps > .05$ ) between IMP scores and the  
962 background demographic variables, except for small positive associations between IMP  
963 scores and parent or child age. These correlations were very small and likely to have no  
964 practical significance (e.g.,  $r = .13$ ,  $p = .008$  between parent age and IMP score amongst  
965 mothers of children). IMP scores were significantly associated with parent mental health for  
966 both groups. Mothers of children without a previous mental health diagnosis reported more  
967 mindful parenting ( $M = 103.89$ ,  $SD = 12.75$ ) than those with a previous diagnosis ( $M = 98.97$ ,  
968  $SD = 12.75$ ;  $t = -3.72$ ,  $p < .001$ ). The same pattern was found amongst mothers of infants,  
969 with more mindful parenting in those without a previous diagnosis ( $M = 107.67$ ,  $SD = 12.44$ ),  
970 than in those with one ( $M = 104.85$ ,  $SD = 12.43$ ;  $t = -2.02$ ,  $p = .044$ ).

971           IMP scores were also related to some aspects of mindfulness practice. Amongst  
972 mothers of children, there was no difference in IMP scores based on history of formal  
973 mindfulness practice or the length of that practice history (both  $ps > .05$ ). However, IMP  
974 scores were related to frequency of current practice, with mothers who reported at least  
975 monthly practice having higher scores ( $M = 104.92$ ,  $SD = 13.03$ ) than those practicing less  
976 than monthly ( $M = 98.28$ ,  $SD = 11.36$ ;  $t = 3.02$ ,  $p = .003$ ). In mothers of infants, IMP scores  
977 were higher amongst mothers with a history of formal mindfulness practice ( $M = 108.28$ ,  $SD$   
978  $= 12.15$ ), compared to those without that history ( $M = 104.85$ ,  $SD = 12.60$ ;  $t = -2.46$ ,  $p =$   
979  $.015$ ), and amongst those who had practiced for more than 1 year ( $M = 111.04$ ,  $SD = 12.37$ ),  
980 compared to those who had practiced for less than a year ( $M = 105.71$ ,  $SD = 1.36$ ;  $t = -2.65$ ,  
981  $p = .009$ ). However, IMP scores did not differ according to frequency of current practice ( $p >$   
982  $.05$ ) in this group.

## Discussion

983  
984 This study sought to examine the structure of mindful parenting in an English-  
985 speaking population, and to determine whether it differed for parents of infants and parents of  
986 children. In relation to factor structure, the model proposed by Duncan et al. (2009) was a  
987 poor fit in both groups of mothers. In contrast, the de Bruin et al. (2014) and Moreira and  
988 Canavarro (2017) models were an adequate to good fit in both mothers of children and  
989 infants. Amongst mothers of children, the slightly better fit indices and lower number of  
990 modifications required suggested the de Bruin et al. model was a marginally better fit to the  
991 data. Amongst mothers of infants, the indices showed both models to be a reasonably good  
992 fit, although the de Bruin et al. model again required fewer modifications to achieve best fit.  
993 The divergence of fit between the proposed Duncan et al. model on the one hand, and the de  
994 Bruin et al. and Moreira and Canavarro models on the other, supports the separation of the  
995 parent- and child-focused items relating to compassion, non-judgment, and emotional  
996 awareness onto separate factors. This separation of parent- and child-focused items in an  
997 English-speaking group of mothers confirms that this is a reflection of the construct of  
998 mindful parenting rather than an artifact of the translation process or a reflection of cultural  
999 differences. Our results also confirm that items 3 and 6 should be deleted from the IMP, as  
1000 suggested by de Bruin et al. (2014) and Moreira and Canavarro (2017).

1001 The fit of the de Bruin et al. (2014) and Moreira and Canavarro (2017) models in both  
1002 groups of mothers also shows that the construct of mindful parenting is similar for mothers of  
1003 children and mothers of infants. One potential issue regarding the operation of the IMP in  
1004 parents of pre-verbal infants was that some items appeared to have limited face validity. For  
1005 example, the wording of items 4 (“I listen carefully to my child’s ideas, even when I disagree  
1006 with them”) and 28 (“I try to understand my child’s point of view, even when his/her  
1007 opinions do not make sense to me”) appears relevant only to parents of children who can



1008 verbally express ideas or opinions. For item 28, the loadings were very similar across mothers  
1009 of children (0.71) and infants (0.68). For item 4, although the loading for mothers of infants  
1010 (0.37) was lower than for mothers of children (0.64), it was significant. In addition, amongst  
1011 mothers of infants but not children, the errors for items 4 and 28 were correlated. This pattern  
1012 of factor loadings, and the error covariance for mothers of infants only, suggests that even  
1013 though infants do not have sufficient verbal skills to express their opinions, these items are  
1014 measuring an underlying understanding by mothers that infants can communicate in other  
1015 ways, such as through displays of emotion. Mothers therefore appear to interpret these items  
1016 in a manner that is applicable to the developmental age of their child.

1017         There was also some variation between the two groups of mothers in the size of the  
1018 loadings for item 10 (“I have difficulty accepting my child’s growing independence”). This  
1019 item had a loading on the ENRP facet of only 0.16 for mothers of infants, and only 0.34 for  
1020 mothers of children. As the group of mothers of children had a broader range of children,  
1021 including adolescents in the process of gaining independence from their parents (Moretti &  
1022 Peled, 2004), it is expected that item 10 would be more relevant to those mothers. However,  
1023 both loadings were still low, raising the question as to whether it is a good indicator of non-  
1024 reactivity. This item was also problematic in the unpublished validation of the 10-item IMP  
1025 (Duncan, 2007), where it showed low correlations with other items. Further investigations  
1026 could help clarify whether item 10 should be retained in the IMP.

### 1027 **Clinical Implications**

1028         The findings discussed above have potentially important clinical implications. First,  
1029 since the construct of mindful parenting is similar for parents of children and infants,  
1030 programs that seek to develop mindful parenting skills are likely to benefit families whether  
1031 they have children or infants. This study, together with others that have examined this  
1032 construct in different age groups (for example, de Bruin et al., 2014; Kim et al., 2018),

1033 therefore provides evidence for the relevance of mindful parenting for all families, regardless  
1034 of the developmental stage of their children. Second, in line with evidence that mindful  
1035 parenting and general trait mindfulness are correlated (Meppelink et al., 2016), the present  
1036 results showed mindful parenting was related to formal mindfulness practice. However, these  
1037 relationships were weak, indicating that a parent's general mindfulness practice may not have  
1038 a meaningful impact on their ability to be mindful with their child. For parents wishing to  
1039 manage their own stress or other mental health concerns, general mindfulness practice may  
1040 be sufficient to address these concerns. However, as increases in mindful parenting, but not  
1041 general mindfulness, predict reductions in child psychopathology (Meppelink et al., 2016),  
1042 families managing child psychopathology may benefit more from mindful parenting  
1043 programs targeted specifically toward parenting difficulties, rather than from general  
1044 mindfulness programs.

#### 1045 **Limitations**

1046       There are limitations to note in connection with this study. First, as the IMP validation  
1047 was undertaken only with mothers, the results are not generalizable to fathers. We are  
1048 unaware of any investigations of the IMP's factor structure in father-only samples, so a gap  
1049 remains in our understanding of how the construct of mindful parenting may compare in  
1050 fathers and mothers. This issue is an important one to address because it informs the question  
1051 of whether mindful parenting programs, which are currently the same for mothers and  
1052 fathers, should be tailored to reflect any gender differences in mindful parenting. Second, we  
1053 only considered the structure of mindful parenting in infants aged 0–2 years and children  
1054 aged 3–18 years. The group of children in particular had a broad age range and given that  
1055 parenting children at each end of this age range may be quite different, it would be interesting  
1056 for future studies to look at mindful parenting in more precise age groups.

1057 **Conclusion**

1058           This study shows for the first time that the IMP is a valid measure of mindful  
1059 parenting in English-speaking, community recruited mothers. Importantly, it also confirms  
1060 that the IMP operates similarly amongst mothers of pre-verbal infants and mothers of  
1061 children.

1062

## CHAPTER FOUR. Regression analyses

### **Mindful parenting: Associations with child internalizing problems and parent variables related to child internalizing problems**

In Chapter 4, regression analyses are used to investigate whether mindful parenting predicts child internalizing problems and several parent variables related to child internalizing problems, and if so, which facets of mindful parenting are most relevant to those child and parent variables.

This Chapter reproduces parts of the published article referred to below (Appendix B1) that relate to the associations between the IMP and child internalizing problems. As these aspects of the published article constituted only a minor part of the overall article, Chapter 4 substantially expands upon them to ensure that the thesis forms a cohesive whole, as required by the University's procedures relating to higher degrees by research.

Burgdorf, V., & Szabó, M. (2021). The Interpersonal Mindfulness in Parenting Scale in mothers of children and infants: Factor structure and associations with child internalizing problems. *Frontiers in Psychology, 11*:633709. doi: 10.3389/fpsyg.2020.633709

## Abstract

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**Objectives:** Mindful parenting appears beneficial for parents and children. However, little is known about how the benefits are passed on to children, in particular how it reduces child internalizing problems. We aimed to identify parent factors that might explain how mindful parenting reduces child internalizing problems, which facets of mindful parenting are related to those parent factors and child internalizing problems and whether those facets differ for parents of children and infants.

**Methods:** We used simultaneous multiple regression analyses to find whether particular facets of mindful parenting would predict child internalizing problems, parental experiential avoidance, cognitive emotion regulation, and unhelpful beliefs and behaviors regarding child anxiety. Analyses were done separately for English-speaking community-recruited mothers of children aged 3–18 years ( $n = 170$ ) and infants aged 0–2 years ( $n = 75$ ).

**Results:** Non-judgmental Acceptance of Parental Functioning (NJAPF) and Emotional Awareness of the Child (EAC) predicted child internalizing problems. Overall, NJAPF was the most important unique predictor of parent outcomes. EAC, Emotional Awareness of the Self, Emotional Non-reactivity in Parenting and Compassion for the Child were also unique predictors, albeit with some differences between mothers of children and mothers of infants.

**Conclusions:** Mindful parenting may reduce child internalizing problems by improving parental emotion regulation or reducing parents' unhelpful beliefs or behaviors. Mindful parenting programs for families of children with internalizing problems should focus on developing parents' ability to be non-judgmental regarding their own functioning as a parent. Families may also benefit from programs being adapted to more specifically meet the different needs of parents of infants and older children.

## Introduction

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Mindful parenting is the process of parenting with non-judgmental, moment to moment awareness (Kabat-Zinn & Kabat-Zinn, 1997). Engaging in this process enhances parents' understanding of their child's experiences and needs, their ability to parent kindly (Kabat-Zinn & Kabat-Zinn, 2021) and in a manner that facilitates their longer-term parenting goals (Duncan et al., 2009). More mindful parents are less likely to react to challenging parenting situations in ways that reflect negative, automatic patterns of interaction between parent and child, which may be harmful to the parent-child relationship (Dumas, 2005). Attending a mindful parenting program (MPP) increases parents' tendency to be mindful in their parenting (Meppelink et al., 2016). MPPs appear to reduce parenting stress (Ferraioli & Harris, 2013). They may also reduce child externalizing and internalizing problems (Lo et al., 2017b; Ridderinkhof et al., 2017), even when mindfulness training is provided to parents only (Burgdorf et al., 2019).

However, the mechanisms through which mindful parenting might improve outcomes for children are not yet well understood. Amongst families where all or the majority of children had a primary externalizing disorder, reductions in parenting stress and over-reactivity after a MPP were found to predict reductions in child externalizing problems, but not internalizing problems (Burgdorf et al., 2019; Emerson et al., 2019a). In the same families, reductions in child internalizing problems were found to be only partially explained by a reduction in parental experiential avoidance (Emerson et al., 2019a). No other studies have investigated how MPPs might impact parent factors so as to reduce child internalizing problems. However, given that internalizing disorders are more prevalent in children than externalizing disorders (Polanczyk et al., 2015), and have a range of negative impacts on children and their families (Swan & Kendall, 2016), it would be helpful to develop a better understanding of the ways in which MPPs reduce child internalizing. It is possible, for

1132 example, that MPPs might impact parent factors that can contribute to or maintain child  
1133 internalizing problems, which could then lead to reductions in child internalizing.

1134         Parental experiential avoidance refers to a parent's difficulty in tolerating their child's  
1135 negative emotion and managing their own reactions to that emotion (Cheron et al., 2009). In  
1136 situations eliciting negative emotions in the child, experiential avoidance may manifest in the  
1137 parent as withdrawal from the situation, or over-protective or controlling behavior towards  
1138 the child (Tiwari et al., 2008). It predicts child anxiety over and above the parent's own  
1139 anxiety and controlling behavior (Emerson et al., 2019b). Modelling by a parent of such  
1140 avoidant coping behaviors makes it more likely that their child will also avoid negative  
1141 emotions, thereby contributing to, or maintaining, their internalizing problems (Fulton et al.,  
1142 2014; Tiwari et al., 2008). As MPPs encourage parents to tolerate the difficult emotions they  
1143 or their child experience, they may build parents' ability to use more active coping strategies,  
1144 thus making it more likely that their child will also learn such strategies and thus decrease  
1145 their internalizing over time. Parental experiential avoidance has been found by one study to  
1146 decrease following a MPP (Emerson et al., 2019a). As that study principally involved parents  
1147 of children with primary externalizing disorders, parents may have increased their ability to  
1148 tolerate child emotions such as frustration or anger and manage their reactions to those child  
1149 emotions. Given the moderately strong link between parental experiential avoidance and  
1150 child internalizing (Emerson et al., 2019b), it is likely that MPPs would also improve parents'  
1151 ability to tolerate negative child emotions such as sadness or anxiety, but this remains to be  
1152 confirmed.

1153         Like experiential avoidance, parents' cognitive emotion regulation style is related to  
1154 child internalizing problems (Wald et al., 2018). Parents who model the use of more adaptive  
1155 cognitive emotion regulation strategies have children who also use more adaptive strategies,  
1156 which predicts lower child internalizing problems (Chan et al., 2016; Gunzenhauser et al.,

1157 2014). General mindfulness-based therapy is thought to reduce adults' internalizing problems  
1158 through improved cognitive emotion regulation (Curtiss et al., 2017; Gu et al., 2015). Since  
1159 MPPs are closely based upon these general mindfulness therapies (Bögels & Restifo, 2013),  
1160 MPPs may also improve parents' cognitive emotion regulation and thereby reduce child  
1161 internalizing problems. Only one study has assessed whether changes in parental cognitive  
1162 emotion regulation occur after parents attend a MPP. Racey et al. (2017) found that parents  
1163 engaged in less rumination and showed greater decentring from thoughts, and that their  
1164 adolescent children reported fewer depressive symptoms. However, both parents and  
1165 adolescents followed parallel mindfulness programs in that study, so it is not known whether  
1166 the improvements in parents' cognitive regulation, or improvements in some aspect of the  
1167 adolescents' functioning, led to the reductions in adolescent depression.

1168         Parent cognitions regarding their child's internalizing symptoms may also link  
1169 mindful parenting and child internalizing problems. For example, parents of anxious children  
1170 are more likely than others to believe that anxiety is harmful or that children should be  
1171 protected from feeling anxious (Francis & Chorpita, 2009; Herren et al., 2013). These beliefs  
1172 may lead parents to accommodate their child's anxiety, perhaps by allowing the child to  
1173 avoid feared situations, thus preventing the exposure to those situations that would reduce the  
1174 anxiety (Johnco et al., 2021; Settapani & Kendall, 2017). As MPPs encourage parents to  
1175 decentre from and tolerate difficult thoughts (Bögels & Restifo, 2013), they may assist  
1176 parents to refrain from accommodating their child's anxiety in response to their own  
1177 unhelpful cognitions, thereby increasing the child's exposure and lowering anxiety over time.  
1178 At present, there are no published studies investigating this hypothesis.

1179         While there is little evidence available regarding parent variables that could explain  
1180 the relationship between mindful parenting and child internalizing problems, they appear to  
1181 differ from those linking mindful parenting and child externalizing problems (Burgdorf et al.,



1182 2019; Emerson et al., 2019a). There is also limited evidence regarding the particular facets of  
1183 mindful parenting that predict child internalizing problems or parent variables that might  
1184 contribute to or maintain child internalizing problems. Less judgmental parenting has been  
1185 found to predict lower child internalizing (Geurtzen et al., 2015; McGregor et al., 2020), but  
1186 there do not appear to be any studies reporting on the relationship between mindful parenting  
1187 facets and parental experiential avoidance, cognitive emotion regulation or beliefs or  
1188 behaviors relating to child anxiety. However, identifying the facets of mindful parenting that  
1189 are most relevant to child internalizing problems and related parent variables is important.  
1190 This would allow MPPs to be tailored to more specifically focus on the parenting needs of  
1191 children with internalizing problems, which may further improve their outcomes.

1192         Finally, families might also benefit from MPPs being adapted to suit parents with  
1193 children at particular ages or developmental stages, since children's parenting needs vary  
1194 across different stages (Karavasilis et al., 2003). For example, to accommodate an infant's  
1195 need for proximity (Flacking et al., 2016), parents of infants may need to focus on being  
1196 attentive or compassionate with their child. On the other hand, as older children and  
1197 adolescents become more emotionally reactive and begin to take more risks (Jaworska &  
1198 MacQueen, 2015), parents of older children or adolescents may need to work on being less  
1199 reactive themselves. Some studies have already used adapted programs. For example, the  
1200 *Mindful With Your Baby* program, which includes the infants in most sessions, includes  
1201 information for parents on mindfulness practice with a crying baby, making generalisation of  
1202 skills in the home environment more likely (Potharst et al., 2017). However, at present there  
1203 is no research indicating whether MPPs have different impacts on parent outcomes,  
1204 depending on the child's age or developmental stage. This information would also be useful  
1205 in terms of tailoring MPPs, to deliver improved results.

1206 The aims of this study were to identify parent variables that might explain the  
1207 relationship between mindful parenting and child internalizing problems, the facets of  
1208 mindful parenting most closely related to those parent variables and to child internalizing  
1209 problems, and whether those facets are different for parents of children and infants. To  
1210 address these aims, the study used regression analyses to find which facets of mindful  
1211 parenting uniquely predicted child internalizing problems, parental experiential avoidance,  
1212 parent cognitive emotion regulation and unhelpful parent beliefs and behaviors relating to  
1213 child anxiety. The regression analyses were done separately for parents of children and  
1214 infants. We hypothesized that more mindful parenting would predict lower child internalizing  
1215 problems, less parental experiential avoidance, use of more adaptive and less maladaptive  
1216 cognitive emotion regulation strategies, and fewer unhelpful beliefs and behaviors regarding  
1217 child anxiety. However, given the lack of existing research, we did not make hypotheses  
1218 regarding the specific facets of mindful parenting that would be most relevant to the  
1219 outcomes of interest.

1220

## Method

### 1221 Participants and Procedures

1222 The study procedures were approved by The University of Sydney Human Research  
1223 Ethics Committee (approval numbers 183/2019 and 440/2019). As part of a broader study, a  
1224 total of 990 participants were recruited from the community, using targeted Facebook  
1225 advertisements. The advertisement contained a link to the information statement and consent  
1226 form, hosted on the secure data collection website Qualtrics. People were invited to take part  
1227 if English was their primary language and they were a parent, or acting in the role of parent,  
1228 to at least one child aged 0–20 years. There were no other exclusion criteria. Participants with  
1229 more than one child were asked to answer the parenting questions with regard to just one of  
1230 their children.

1231 From the 990 participants who provided informed consent, a subset of mothers ( $n =$   
1232 245), were asked to complete demographic data, the Interpersonal Mindfulness in Parenting  
1233 Scale (IMP; Duncan et al., 2009) and a set of measures of child internalizing problems and  
1234 related parent variables. The data of the remainder of the parents was used as described in  
1235 Chapter 3 of this thesis. For the  $n = 245$  participants in this study, the age of the mothers of  
1236 infants ranged from 26 to 53 years ( $M = 33.88$ ;  $SD = 4.58$ ) and their infants' mean age was  
1237 1.16 years ( $SD = 0.75$ ). Mothers of children were aged between 27 and 56 years ( $M = 38.46$ ,  
1238  $SD = 5.70$ ), and the mean age of their children was 7.69 years ( $SD = 3.77$ ). Table 1 contains  
1239 further information on sample characteristics. Families of infants generally had fewer  
1240 children, but there were no other demographic differences between the two groups of  
1241 mothers.

1242 **Table 1**

1243 *Sample characteristics (N = 245)*

Characteristic	Mothers of children $n=170$		Mothers of infants $n=75$		Difference between groups	
	$n$	%	$n$	%	$\chi^2$ ( $df$ )	$\phi_c$
Child gender					0.89(2)	0.06
Male	76	44.7	34	45.3		
Female	92	54.1	41	54.7		
Other	2	1.2				
Parent relation to child					0.19(1)	0.03
Biological mother	165	97.1	72	96.0		
Other female caregiver	5	3.0	3	4.0		
Caregiver role					1.16(2)	0.07
Primary carer	127	74.7	59	78.7		
Equal carer <sup>a</sup>	41	24.1	16	21.3		
Secondary carer	2	1.2				
No. children in family					81.97(3)***	0.58
1	33	19.4	60	80.0		
2	86	50.6	12	16.0		
3	42	24.7	2	2.7		
$\geq 4$	9	5.3	1	1.3		

Characteristic	Mothers of children n=170		Mothers of infants n=75		Difference between groups	
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	$\chi^2$ ( <i>df</i> )	$\phi_c$
Parent highest level of education					5.53(2)	0.15
Post-graduate or Bachelor degree	126	74.1	65	86.7		
Associate degree or vocational training	22	12.9	3	4.0		
Secondary school or other	21	12.4	7	9.3		
Parent previous mental health diagnosis					2.88(1)	0.11
No	97	57.1	34	45.3		
Yes	73	42.9	41	54.7		
History of formal mindfulness practice					2.95(1)	0.11
Yes	75	44.1	42	56.0		
No	95	55.9	33	44.0		
Length of mindfulness practice					0.39(1)	0.06
< 1 year	30	41.7	15	35.7		
≥ 1 year	42	58.3	27	64.3		
Frequency of mindfulness practice					0.23(1)	0.05
< Monthly	63	87.5	38	90.5		
≥ Monthly	9	12.5	4	9.5		

1245 *Note.*  $\phi_c$  is Cramer's V effect size, where 0.1-0.3 is a small effect, 0.3-0.5 a moderate effect and >0.5 a  
 1246 large effect (Cohen, 1988).

1247 <sup>a</sup>Equal carer is a parent who reports sharing the care of their child approximately equally with another  
 1248 person.

1249 \* $p \leq .05$ . \*\* $p \leq .01$ . \*\*\* $p \leq .001$ .

1250

1251 **Measures**

1252           The parents completed the following questionnaires, along with two other  
 1253 questionnaires that were not included in the current study:

1254 ***Demographics and Mindfulness Practice Questionnaire***

1255           Demographic information was collected from participants on the variables presented  
 1256 in Table 1. Participants were also asked whether they had ever engaged in formal  
 1257 mindfulness or other form of meditation or contemplative practice. Response options were  
 1258 one or more of mindfulness, yoga, tai chi, other (*participant to specify*) or none. Participants

1259 who indicated some form of past formal practice were asked to indicate approximately how  
1260 long they had engaged in that practice. For the purposes of the analyses in this paper, answers  
1261 were dichotomized into “*less than 1 year*” and “*1 year or more.*” For those currently  
1262 practicing, the reported frequency of practice was dichotomized into “*less than monthly*” and  
1263 “*monthly or more.*” The data reported in this paper relate only to history, length and  
1264 frequency of formal mindfulness practice.

### 1265 ***Mindful Parenting***

1266         The Interpersonal Mindfulness in Parenting scale (IMP; Duncan, 2007, Duncan et al.,  
1267 2009) measures mindfulness in the parenting context. In this study, we used the 29-item  
1268 version of the IMP, with the six scales suggested by de Bruin et al. (2014): Listening with  
1269 Full Attention (LFA), Compassion for the Child (CC), Non-judgmental Acceptance of  
1270 Parental Functioning (NJAPF), Emotional Awareness of the Child (EAC), Emotional Non-  
1271 reactivity in Parenting (ENRP), and Emotional Awareness of Self (EAS). The items are rated  
1272 using a 5-point Likert-type scale, where 1 = *Never true*, 2 = *Rarely true*, 3 = *Sometimes true*,  
1273 4 = *Often true* and 5 = *Always true*. A total score is calculated by summing the items, with 14  
1274 items (1, 5, 9–15, 17, 19, 23, 26, and 29) reverse coded. Higher scores indicate more mindful  
1275 parenting. In this study, for mothers of children, Cronbach’s alpha for each scale was: LFA  
1276 .89, CC .85, NJAPF .82, EAC .86, ENRP .81, and EAS .80. For mothers of infants, alpha  
1277 was: LFA .85, CC .79, NJAPF .85, EAC .63, ENRP .76, and EAS .73.

### 1278 ***Child Internalizing Problems***

1279         The Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ; Goodman, 1997) assesses child  
1280 mental health in children aged 2–18 years. There are separate versions of SDQ for children  
1281 aged 2-4 years, 5-10 years, 11-17 years and 18+ years. In all versions, five subscales relating  
1282 to emotional problems, peer problems, behavioral problems, hyperactivity, and prosocial  
1283 behavior are made up of five questions each, with 3-point response scales, where 0 = *Not*

1284 *true*, 1 = *Somewhat true* and 2 = *Certainly true*. In this study, we report only on the  
1285 Emotional Problems and Peer Problems subscales, combined into an Internalizing Problems  
1286 scale, where a higher score indicates more problems. The Internalizing Problems scale has  
1287 good convergent and discriminant validity and internal consistency in general community  
1288 samples (Goodman et al., 2010). In this study, Cronbach's alpha for the Internalizing  
1289 Problems scale was .70 (2-4 years), .71 (5-10 years) and .87 (11-17 years). No alpha was  
1290 calculated for 18+ years, as there was only one mother of a child aged 18 years.

### 1291 ***Mothers' Internalizing Problems***

1292 We used the Depression Anxiety Stress Scales, 21 item version (DASS-21; Lovibond  
1293 & Lovibond, 1995) to measure parental distress. The DASS-21 is a self-report measure with  
1294 three scales assessing the emotional states of depression, anxiety and stress. The items are  
1295 answered on a 4-point Likert type scale, ranging from 0 (*Did not apply to me at all*) to 3  
1296 (*Applied to me very much or most of the time*). The scale scores are added to give a total  
1297 distress score. Higher scores indicate greater distress. The psychometric properties of the  
1298 DASS-21 have been reported to be excellent in several studies (e.g., Antony et al., 1998;  
1299 Crawford & Henry, 2003). Cronbach's alpha in this study was .92 for parents of infants and  
1300 .93 for parents of children.

### 1301 ***Parental Experiential Avoidance***

1302 We used the 15-item Parental Acceptance and Action Questionnaire (PAAQ; Cheron  
1303 et al., 2009) as a self-report measure of experiential avoidance in parenting. Items are rated  
1304 on a 7-point scale from 1 = *Never true* to 7 = *Always true*, with higher scores indicating more  
1305 experiential avoidance. Items 1, 5-7, 10, and 11 are reverse scored. The items are summed to  
1306 create a parental experiential avoidance total score, which measures a parent's unwillingness  
1307 to witness their child's negative feelings and their inability to manage their own reactions to  
1308 those negative feelings. Data regarding the PAAQ's concurrent validity and adequate internal

1309 consistency have been reported by Cheron et al. (2009). In this study, Cronbach's alpha was  
1310 .83 for mothers of children and .81 for mothers of infants.

### 1311 ***Cognitive Emotion Regulation***

1312         The Cognitive Emotion Regulation Questionnaire (CERQ; Garnefski & Kraaij, 2006)  
1313 is a 36-item self-report measure of nine cognitive emotion regulation strategies used by an  
1314 individual in negative or unpleasant situations. The five subscales for generally adaptive  
1315 strategies (Acceptance, Refocus on Planning, Positive Refocusing, Positive Reappraisal,  
1316 Putting into Perspective) can be combined into an Adaptive scale, while the four subscales of  
1317 generally maladaptive strategies (Self-blame, Blaming Others, Rumination, Catastrophizing)  
1318 can be combined into a Maladaptive scale. Responses are given on a 5-point scale ranging  
1319 from 1 = (*Almost*) never to 5 = (*Almost*) always. A higher scale score indicates more frequent  
1320 use of the strategies represented by that scale. The CERQ is valid and internally consistent  
1321 (Garnefski & Kraaij, 2006). In this study, internal consistencies for mothers of children were  
1322 CERQ Adaptive .91 and CERQ Maladaptive .86, and for mothers of infants were CERQ  
1323 Adaptive .92 and CERQ Maladaptive .88.

### 1324 ***Parent Overprotection Beliefs***

1325         The Parental Attitudes, Beliefs and Understanding about Anxiety scale (PABUA;  
1326 Wolk et al., 2016) is a 21-item self-report measure of a parent's beliefs and attitudes about  
1327 their child's anxiety, consisting of three scales. The PABUA was used only for mothers of  
1328 children, as there is evidence that overprotectiveness is not problematic for infants  
1329 (Majdandžić, de Vente, Colonnaesi, & Bögels, 2018). Overprotection measures parent beliefs  
1330 about protecting their child from anxiety, with items such as "*It is important that I protect my*  
1331 *child from feeling anxious.*" Approach measures beliefs regarding child autonomy and  
1332 exposure to anxiety, for example "*A way to help my child feel less anxious is to encourage*  
1333 *him/her to face his/her fears.*" Finally, Distress measures parent distress in connection with

1334 their child’s anxiety, for example “*It is hard for me to be with my child when he/she is*  
1335 *nervous.*” Items 4, 12, 16, and 21, which form the Approach scale, are reverse scored. The  
1336 items are answered on a 5-point scale, from 1 = *Strongly disagree* to 5 = *Strongly agree*, with  
1337 higher scores indicative of less helpful beliefs about anxiety. The PABUA has good  
1338 convergent and divergent validity (Wolk et al., 2016). Although Wolk et al. also found the  
1339 PABUA had adequate to good internal consistency, in this study, Cronbach’s alphas for the  
1340 Approach ( $\alpha = 0.41$  for mothers of children) and Distress ( $\alpha = 0.71$  for mothers of children)  
1341 scales were poor, so these scales were excluded from the analyses. The alpha for the  
1342 Overprotection scale was .86 for mothers of children.

### 1343 ***Parental Accommodation***

1344 The 5-item Parental Accommodation Scale (PAS; Meyer et al., 2018) measures the  
1345 frequency of parental behaviors aimed at helping their child to lessen or avoid anxiety, with  
1346 items such as “*I help my child avoid things or perform behaviors so that he or she feels better*  
1347 *immediately.*” The PAS was also used only for mothers of children. The items are answered  
1348 on a 4-point scale ranging from 0 = *Never/almost never* to 3 = *Always/almost always*. Higher  
1349 scores indicate more unhelpful accommodating behaviors. Meyer et al. (2018) demonstrated  
1350 the PAS’s convergent validity and good internal consistency. For mothers of children in this  
1351 study, alpha was .77.

### 1352 **Statistical Analysis**

1353 We used SPSS version 26 to conduct a series of simultaneous multiple regression  
1354 analyses to determine the unique contribution of individual IMP subscales to the prediction of  
1355 scores on measures of child internalizing problems and related parent variables. For each of  
1356 these variables, the data were first checked to ensure assumptions regarding normality of  
1357 residual distribution, homoscedasticity and multicollinearity were met. For each dependent  
1358 variable, P-P plots showed residuals to be normally distributed, scatterplots showed residuals



1359 to be equally distributed across the relevant independent variable and all variance inflation  
1360 factors were less than 10.

## 1361 **Results**

### 1362 **Preliminary Analyses**

1363 IMP scores were higher for non-biological mothers ( $M = 113.38$ ,  $SD = 10.64$ ) than  
1364 biological mothers ( $M = 103.34$ ,  $SD = 13.79$ ;  $F(1, 243) = 4.15$ ,  $p = .043$ ). In relation to family  
1365 size, there were only ten mothers of 4 or more children, so we aggregated data from these  
1366 mothers with the mothers of 3 children. IMP scores were higher for the families with fewer  
1367 children ( $F(2, 242) = 9.89$ ,  $p < .001$ ). There were no other significant associations between  
1368 IMP scores and demographic variables.

1369 IMP scores were related to some aspects of mindfulness practice. Mothers with a  
1370 history of mindfulness practice had slightly higher IMP scores ( $M = 105.68$ ,  $SD = 13.37$ ) than  
1371 those with no history of practice ( $M = 101.82$ ,  $SD = 13.98$ ;  $F(1, 243) = 4.87$ ,  $p = .028$ ).  
1372 Further, mothers who had practiced mindfulness for a year or more ( $M = 107.72$ ,  $SD = 12.87$ )  
1373 had higher scores than those who had practiced for less than a year ( $M = 101.73$ ,  $SD = 13.48$ ;  
1374  $F(1, 158) = 7.98$ ,  $p = .005$ ). There was no significant difference in IMP scores based on  
1375 mothers' current frequency of practice.

### 1376 **Correlation Analyses**

1377 Table 2 contains the correlation coefficients for mindful parenting facets and child  
1378 and parent outcomes. Mothers' internalizing symptoms (DASS) were significantly positively  
1379 associated with child internalizing (SDQ Internalizing), so mothers' internalizing was  
1380 included as a control variable in the regression analysis predicting child internalizing  
1381 problems. Both mother and child internalizing symptoms were significantly positively  
1382 associated with the parent outcomes, except for Adaptive cognitive emotion regulation  
1383 (CERQ Adaptive). CERQ Adaptive was significantly negatively associated with mothers'

1384 internalizing symptoms but was not related to child internalizing problems. In the regression  
1385 analyses for parent outcomes in mothers of children, we controlled for both parent and child  
1386 internalizing symptoms. Amongst mothers of infants, we controlled only for mothers'  
1387 internalizing. There was insufficient SDQ Internalizing data to include this as a control  
1388 variable for mothers of infants, as that data was available for only  $n = 23$  infants aged 2 years  
1389 and not for the remaining infants aged 0-1 year.

1390           Correlations between demographic and mindfulness practice variables, child  
1391 internalizing problems and the parent outcomes were also calculated to determine whether  
1392 any demographic or mindfulness practice variables were candidates for inclusion as control  
1393 variables in the regression analyses. These correlations are shown in Table 3. Demographic  
1394 or mindfulness practice variables were included as control variables if the correlations  
1395 between those variables and the child or parent outcome variables were significant, or where  
1396 the correlation coefficient was .25 or more. We included control variables based on the size  
1397 of the correlation coefficient as well as statistical significance because of the smaller sample  
1398 size of mothers of infants ( $n = 75$ ) compared to mothers of children ( $n = 170$ ).

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1409 **Table 2**

1410 *Correlations between mindful parenting facets, child and mothers' internalizing problems, and parent outcomes*

Variable	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1 LFA	-												
2 CC	.50***	-											
3 EAC	.35***	.47***	-										
4 NJAPF	.40***	.39***	.23***	-									
5 ENRP	.59***	.52***	.36***	.64***	-								
6 EAS	.48***	.63***	.42***	.40***	.66***	-							
7 Child internalizing	-.21**	-.17*	-.29***	-.40***	-.32***	-.28***	-						
8 Mothers' internalizing	-.26***	-.17**	-.10	-.53***	-.38***	-.25***	.34***	-					
9 Parental experiential avoidance	-.36***	-.49***	-.28***	-.68***	-.58***	-.49***	.53***	.47***	-				
10 Adaptive CER	.10	.32***	.21***	.24***	.16**	.38***	-.15	-.16**	-.31***	-			
11 Maladaptive CER	-.24***	-.13*	.04	-.55***	-.39***	-.18**	.25***	.62***	.45***	-.10	-		
12 Overprotection beliefs	-.07	-.04	-.02	-.27***	-.11	-.08	.28***	.22***	.47***	-.22***	.27***	-	
13 Accommodation	-.22***	-.07	-.14*	-.36***	-.23***	-.17*	.38***	.30***	.51***	-.14*	.39***	.56***	-

1411 *Note.* LFA is Listening with Full Attention; CC is Compassion for the Child; EAC is Emotional Awareness of the Child; NJAPF is Non-  
 1412 judgmental Acceptance of Parental Functioning; ENRP is Emotional Non-reactivity in Parenting; EAS is Emotional Awareness of the Self;  
 1413 Adaptive CER is adaptive cognitive emotion regulation; Maladaptive CER is maladaptive cognitive emotion regulation.

1414 \*  $p \leq .05$ . \*\*  $p \leq .01$ . \*\*\*  $p \leq .001$ .

1415 **Table 3**

1416 *Correlations between demographic and mindfulness practice variables, and child and parent*  
 1417 *outcomes*

Demographic or mindfulness practice variable	Child internalizing <sup>a</sup>	Parental experiential avoidance	Adaptive CER	Maladaptive CER	Overprotection beliefs	Accommodation
Mothers of children aged 3-18 years						
Parent age	-.01	-.09	-.08	<b>-.25*</b>	-.14	<b>-.20*</b>
Child age	<b>.24**</b>	.02	-.06	<b>-.18*</b>	-.10	-.07
Child gender <sup>b</sup>	.12	.11	-.05	.05	.14	<b>.22**</b>
History of practice <sup>c</sup>	.07	-.03	.11	.11	-.08	.07
Length of practice <sup>d</sup>	-.14	-.15	.15	-.14	.08	.01
Frequency of practice <sup>e</sup>	.03	-.01	.17	.06	-.10	-.01
Mothers of infants aged 0-2 years						
Parent age		-.17	-.02	.02		
Child age		<b>-.35**</b>	.05	.01		
Child gender <sup>b</sup>		-.08	.08	.03		
History of practice <sup>c</sup>		-.13	.08	-.01		
Length of practice <sup>d</sup>		-.24	.17	-.01		
Frequency of practice <sup>e</sup>		.12	-.08	-.05		

1418 *Note.* Variables whose correlations are in **bold** are controlled in the regressions; Adaptive CER is adaptive  
 1419 cognitive emotion regulation; Maladaptive CER is maladaptive cognitive emotion regulation.

1420 <sup>a</sup>For SDQ Internalizing, this group comprises mothers of children aged 2-18 years (SDQ data not available for  
 1421 infants under 2 years, so SDQ Internalizing not controlled in regressions for mothers of infants); <sup>b</sup>0=females and  
 1422 1=males (this analysis excludes  $n=2$  children whose gender was reported as “other”); <sup>c</sup>0=no history of mindfulness  
 1423 practice and 1=some history of mindfulness practice; <sup>d</sup>0=< 1 year history of mindfulness practice and 1=one or  
 1424 more years history of mindfulness practice; <sup>e</sup>0=currently practicing less than monthly and 1=currently practicing  
 1425 monthly or more.

1426 \* $p \leq .05$ . \*\* $p \leq .01$ .

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1429 **Regression Analyses**

1430 Table 4 shows the results of the regression analysis for child internalizing problems

1431 (for children aged 2–18). In Model 1, child age and mothers’ internalizing symptoms

1432 explained 16.8% of the variance,  $F(2, 151) = 15.22, p < .001$ ). All facets of mindful parenting

1433 were then entered in Model 2, which explained a further 8.9% of the variance,  $\Delta F(6, 145) =$

1434 2.89,  $p = .011$ ). Controlling for child age and mothers' internalizing, child internalizing  
 1435 problems were uniquely predicted by the NJAPF and EAC facets of mindful parenting.

1436

1437 **Table 4**

1438 *Regression analysis predicting child internalizing problems (n = 163)*

Variables	Model 1				Model 2			
	$R^2$	$\beta$	$t$	$sr^2$	$R^2$	$\beta$	$t$	$sr^2$
	.17***				.26***			
Child age		.22***	2.99	.05		.18*	2.41	.03
Mothers' internalizing		.34***	4.51	.11		.17*	1.97	.02
LFA						-.01	-0.10	.00
CC						.12	1.17	.01
EAC						-.17*	-1.98	.02
NJAPF						-.25*	-2.34	.03
ENRP						.01	-0.08	.00
EAS						-.11	-0.96	.00

1439 *Note.* LFA is Listening with Full Attention; CC is Compassion for the Child; EAC is Emotional  
 1440 Awareness of the Child; NJAPF is Non-judgmental Acceptance of Parental Functioning; ENRP is  
 1441 Emotional Non-reactivity in Parenting; EAS is Emotional Awareness of the Self.

1442 \* $p \leq .05$ . \*\*\* $p \leq .001$ .

1443

1444 In relation to regression analyses for parent outcomes, relevant control variables were  
 1445 entered in Model 1, then all mindful parenting facets were added in Model 2. Table 5  
 1446 contains the results of each regression analysis for mothers of children. Table 6 contains the  
 1447 results for mothers of infants. For mothers of children, over and above mothers' and child  
 1448 internalizing symptoms and demographic covariates, all parent outcomes except adaptive  
 1449 cognitive emotion regulation had a unique negative association with NJAPF. Parental  
 1450 experiential avoidance was also uniquely negatively predicted by CC. Maladaptive cognitive  
 1451 emotion regulation was uniquely negatively predicted by ENRP and positively by EAC, and  
 1452 parental accommodation of child anxiety was uniquely negatively predicted by LFA.

1453 Adaptive cognitive emotion regulation was uniquely negatively predicted by ENRP and  
 1454 positively by EAS.

1455 For mothers of infants, no particular facet of mindful parenting appeared more  
 1456 relevant than others. After controlling for mothers' internalizing symptoms and demographic  
 1457 covariates, NJAPF negatively predicted parental experiential avoidance and maladaptive  
 1458 cognitive regulation, CC positively predicted adaptive and maladaptive cognitive emotion  
 1459 regulation, EAS negatively predicted parental experiential avoidance and adaptive cognitive  
 1460 regulation, and ENRP negatively predicted parental experiential avoidance.

1461

1462 **Table 5**

1463 *Regression analyses predicting parent outcomes, for mothers of children aged 3-18 years*

Variables	Model 1				Model 2							
	$R^2$	$\beta$	$t$	$sr^2$	$\Delta R^2$	$\Delta F$	$R^2$	$F$	$\beta$	$t$	$sr^2$	
Parental experiential avoidance ( $n = 148$ )	.41***				.22***	12.27	.63***	26.63				
Child internalizing		.40***	5.56	.14					.29***	4.60	.06	
Mothers' internalizing		.38***	5.33	.13					.18**	2.82	.02	
LFA									.04	0.44	.00	
CC									-.24**	-3.03	.03	
EAC									.07	1.08	.00	
NJAPF									-.35***	-4.19	.05	
ENRP									-.10	-1.00	.00	
EAS									-.03	-0.30	.00	
Adaptive CER ( $n = 168$ )	.04				.15***	3.89	.19***	3.61				
Child internalizing		-.09	-0.98	.01					.00	-0.01	.00	
Mothers' internalizing		-.14	-1.50	.02					-.12	-1.21	.01	
LFA									-.06	-0.52	.00	
CC									.11	0.89	.01	
EAC									.10	1.04	.01	
NJAPF									.17	1.36	.01	
ENRP									-.39**	-2.75	.05	
EAS									.41***	3.38	.07	

	Model 1				Model 2							
	<i>R</i> <sup>2</sup>	$\beta$	<i>t</i>	<i>sr</i> <sup>2</sup>	$\Delta R^2$	$\Delta F$	<i>R</i> <sup>2</sup>	<i>F</i>	$\beta$	<i>t</i>	<i>sr</i> <sup>2</sup>	
Maladaptive CER ( <i>n</i> = 168)	.42***				.14***	6.45	.56***	15.36				
Parent age		-.04	-0.45	.00					-.00	-0.04	.00	
Child age		-.17*	-2.11	.02					-.11	-1.49	.01	
Child internalizing		.08	1.05	.01					.05	0.76	.00	
Mothers' internalizing		.58***	7.89	.28					.43***	5.90	.13	
LFA									-.01	-0.08	.00	
CC									-.07	-0.84	.00	
EAC									.25***	3.33	.04	
NJAPF									-.29**	-3.16	.04	
ENRP									-.22*	-2.03	.01	
EAS									.17	1.91	.01	
Overprotection beliefs ( <i>n</i> = 156)	.12**				.06	1.57	.18**	3.37				
Child internalizing		.23**	2.56	.04					.20*	2.14	.03	
Mothers' internalizing		.19*	2.13	.03					.08	0.86	.00	
LFA									-.09	-0.79	.00	
CC									.07	0.55	.00	
EAC									.12	1.24	.01	
NJAPF									-.32**	-2.63	.05	
ENRP									.14	0.97	.01	
EAS									-.03	-0.21	.00	
Accommodation ( <i>n</i> = 143)	.26***				.08*	2.28	.33***	6.03				
Parent age		-.12	-1.50	.01					-.09	-1.14	.01	
Child gender <sup>a</sup>		.16*	2.10	.03					.12	1.55	.01	
Child internalizing		.30***	3.63	.08					.24**	2.77	.04	
Mothers' internalizing		.22**	2.62	.04					.10	1.11	.01	
LFA									-.20*	-1.96	.02	
CC									.12	1.15	.01	
EAC									-.03	-0.31	.00	
NJAPF									-.32**	-2.87	.05	
ENRP									.15	1.14	.01	
EAS									.00	-0.02	.00	

1465 *Note.* LFA is Listening with Full Attention; CC is Compassion for the Child; EAC is Emotional Awareness of  
 1466 the Child; NJAPF is Non-judgmental Acceptance of Parental Functioning; ENRP is Emotional Non-reactivity in  
 1467 Parenting; EAS is Emotional Awareness of the Self.

1468 <sup>a</sup>0=females and 1=males.

1469 \**p* ≤ .05. \*\**p* ≤ .01. \*\*\**p* ≤ .001.

1470 **Table 6**1471 *Regression analyses predicting parent outcomes, for mothers of infants aged 0-2 years*

Variables	Model 1				Model 2						
	$R^2$	$\beta$	$t$	$sr^2$	$\Delta R^2$	$\Delta F$	$R^2$	$F$	$\beta$	$t$	$sr^2$
Parental experiential avoidance ( $n = 64$ )	.22***				.43***	11.00	.65***	12.55			
Child age		-.36**	-3.10	.13					-.20*	-2.34	.04
Mothers' internalizing		.32**	2.82	.10					-.06	-0.57	.00
LFA									.18	1.81	.02
CC									-.15	-1.35	.01
EAC									.06	0.65	.00
NJAPF									-.43***	-3.97	.10
ENRP									-.24*	-1.97	.03
EAS									-.29*	-2.33	.04
Adaptive CER ( $n = 74$ )	.02				.35***	5.82	.36***	5.24			
Mothers' internalizing		-.13	-1.12	.02					.07	0.60	.00
LFA									-.23	-1.88	.03
CC									.31*	2.36	.06
EAC									.00	-0.02	.00
NJAPF									.23	1.74	.03
ENRP									-.11	-0.75	.01
EAS									.40**	2.64	.07
Maladaptive CER ( $n = 74$ )	.46***				.11*	2.71	.57***	12.11			
Mothers' internalizing		.68***	7.73	.46					.50***	5.11	.18
LFA									.02	0.19	.00
CC									.28**	2.53	.04
EAC									.03	0.27	.00
NJAPF									-.29**	-2.63	.05
ENRP									-.09	-0.71	.00
EAS									-.19	-1.53	.02

1472 *Note.* LFA is Listening with Full Attention; CC is Compassion for the Child; EAC is Emotional Awareness of  
 1473 the Child; NJAPF is Non-judgmental Acceptance of Parental Functioning; ENRP is Emotional Non-reactivity in  
 1474 Parenting; EAS is Emotional Awareness of the Self.

1475 <sup>a</sup>0=less than 1 year history of mindfulness practice, 1=one or more years history of mindfulness practice.

1476 \* $p \leq .05$

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## Discussion

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The aim of this study was to identify whether parental experiential avoidance, cognitive emotion regulation and unhelpful beliefs and behaviors regarding anxiety might explain the relationship between mindful parenting and child internalizing problems, which facets of mindful parenting are most closely associated with child internalizing and those parent variables, and whether those facets differ for parents of children and infants. As expected, mindful parenting predicts child internalizing problems, and parents' experiential avoidance, cognitive emotion regulation and unhelpful beliefs and behaviors relating to child anxiety, amongst mothers of children. For mothers of infants, the hypotheses were also supported, as mindful parenting predicts experiential avoidance and cognitive emotion regulation. Several facets of mindful parenting are uniquely associated with child internalizing problems, and with the related parent outcomes, with some differences across mothers of children and infants.

Child internalizing problems were uniquely predicted by the NJAPF and EAC facets when all other variables, including mothers' internalizing symptoms, were held constant. Children have fewer internalizing problems if their mothers are less judgmental about their own parental functioning and have more emotional awareness regarding their child. Previously, adolescents have been found to be less anxious and depressed if their parents are less judgmental about themselves as parents (Geurtzen et al., 2015), so the present results confirm this relationship in mothers of a wider age range of children. Emotionally competent parents, including those who are more emotionally aware and who model helpful self-regulation strategies, such as non-judgment or acceptance, provide more opportunities for their children to learn these behaviors (Morris et al., 2017). In turn, children with better emotion regulation skills have fewer internalizing problems (Suveg et al., 2011). However, the present results contrast with the finding by Meppelink et al. (2016) that mindful parenting

1503 does not predict child internalizing problems. The use in that study of the overall mindful  
1504 parenting scale, rather than the individual scales, might explain the different results. In this  
1505 study, the scales other than NJAPF and EAC had negligible to very small associations with  
1506 child internalizing, so the aggregation of the individual scales in Meppelink et al. may have  
1507 obscured any relationship. It should also be noted that the cross-sectional nature of the data  
1508 means that alternative explanations are possible. For example, having an anxious child who  
1509 avoids certain activities like engaging in sports or interacting with other children at school or  
1510 in social settings may cause a parent to negatively judge their abilities as a parent.

1511         There were similarities between predictors of parent outcomes for mothers of children  
1512 and infants. After controlling for relevant demographic covariates and mothers' internalizing  
1513 symptoms, and also for child internalizing symptoms in the case of mothers of children,  
1514 NJAPF was the facet of mindful parenting that most strongly predicted parental experiential  
1515 avoidance and maladaptive cognitive emotion regulation for both groups of mothers. Mothers  
1516 are less avoidant of negative emotion and rely less on maladaptive strategies such as  
1517 rumination, catastrophising and blaming, if they are less judgmental regarding their own  
1518 parenting. The importance of self-judgment as a predictor could indicate that mothers are  
1519 interpreting challenging parenting situations as reflecting upon the adequacy of their  
1520 parenting. Parents who judge themselves harshly, or who believe they are less competent  
1521 parents, experience more stress and view such situations as more problematic and difficult to  
1522 resolve (Bloomfield & Kendall, 2012), making it more likely that they will use unhelpful  
1523 strategies in their parenting. On the other hand, parents who don't judge themselves so  
1524 harshly may be more open to allowing the experience of psychological distress in difficult  
1525 parenting situations, framing it as a normal emotional reaction that occurs in parents and  
1526 children in the course of childhood and parenting, rather than an indicator that something is

1527 wrong. This explanation is consistent with evidence that mothers' sense of competence as a  
1528 parent improves after they complete a MPP (Potharst et al., 2018b).

1529         Greater emotional self-awareness was the strongest predictor of the use of adaptive  
1530 cognitive emotion regulation strategies, for both groups of mothers. Several of the adaptive  
1531 cognitive strategies involve making conscious decisions about whether a difficult situation  
1532 can be viewed, or coped with, in a constructive way, such as by viewing the positive aspects  
1533 of the situation or maintaining a broader perspective on the issue. Mothers who are more  
1534 emotionally self-aware may be more likely to make conscious decisions to use these  
1535 constructive strategies in difficult situations because they can recognise their emotional state,  
1536 and the potential negative impact of the situation on their own or their child's emotional state,  
1537 before responding. The capacity to understand and reflect upon one's own emotional state is  
1538 likely to underlie the ability to understand the emotional state of others and make conscious  
1539 decisions regarding appropriate parenting behaviors (Gallup & Platek, 2002; Potharst et al.,  
1540 2020).

1541         There were also differences in the prediction of parent outcomes, for mothers of  
1542 children and infants. Mothers of children are less experientially avoidant in their parenting if  
1543 they have more compassion for their child, whereas mothers of infants are less avoidant if  
1544 they are more emotionally self-aware and emotionally non-reactive. This difference could  
1545 reflect that mothers of infants generally understand that infants have a limited capacity to  
1546 soothe themselves and must rely on parents to regulate their emotions (Rutherford et al.,  
1547 2015). To the extent that mothers of infants understand this, they are more likely to believe  
1548 that they cannot ignore or otherwise avoid their infants' distress. On the other hand, older  
1549 children have a greater capacity for self-regulation. They will also have a broader range of  
1550 reasons to experience negative emotion, such as academic or social concerns, which may be  
1551 harder for parents to address than the relatively simple needs of infants. Parents with greater

1552 compassion for their child are less likely to avoid the negative emotion that can be associated  
1553 with parenting, because compassion involves engaging with another's suffering instead of  
1554 avoiding it (Carona et al., 2017).

1555         For mothers of children, being more emotionally aware regarding the child and more  
1556 emotionally reactive predicted greater use of maladaptive cognitive emotion regulation  
1557 strategies. If parents are very aware of their child's emotional difficulties, this may increase  
1558 the level of stress they experience as a parent, which increases parental reactivity (Venta et  
1559 al., 2016). Highly reactive parents may use more maladaptive regulation strategies, such as  
1560 blaming, because the automatic nature of their reactions precludes them from considering  
1561 more helpful ways of responding or coping with the situation (Dumas, 2005). This elevated  
1562 reactivity to child behavior is probably more relevant for parents of children than infants  
1563 because children's greater agency increases the likelihood that parents will make negative  
1564 attributions regarding their behavior (Nelson et al., 2013), increasing the likelihood of them  
1565 responding unhelpfully (Crouch et al., 2017). In contrast, for mothers of infants, being more  
1566 compassionate with their infant predicted greater use of maladaptive strategies. There are  
1567 numerous challenges for parents to manage during their child's infancy, such as crying,  
1568 sleeping and feeding difficulties (Östberg & Hagekull, 2000), so it may be that kind, caring  
1569 parents understand that their infant has little control over these issues and instead blame  
1570 themselves for these difficulties.

1571         Finally, mothers of children are less likely to believe they need to protect their child  
1572 from anxiety and are less likely to accommodate their child's anxiety, if they are less  
1573 judgmental regarding their own functioning as a parent. However, mothers of children who  
1574 understand that child anxiety is not indicative of a parenting failure, but a normal emotion  
1575 that everyone will experience at times, will probably not feel so compelled to guard against  
1576 anxiety in their child. As noted above, we did not measure these beliefs or behaviours

1577 amongst mothers of infants but they are not likely to be so relevant. For parents of infants,  
1578 typical infant fears such as hesitance around strangers, may be seen as developmentally  
1579 normal rather than due to parenting failures. While parental overprotectiveness or  
1580 accommodation is generally seen as a risk factor for child anxiety (Yap et al., 2014), there is  
1581 evidence that this is not the case for infants (Möller et al., 2015).

## 1582 **Clinical Implications**

1583         The findings discussed above have clinical implications. First, the present results  
1584 showed mindful parenting was only weakly related to having a history of formal mindfulness  
1585 practice and the length of that practice history, and neither practice history nor frequency of  
1586 current practice correlated meaningfully with child internalizing symptoms or parent  
1587 outcomes. This is consistent with existing evidence that while mindful parenting and general,  
1588 trait mindfulness are correlated, it is the increases in mindful parenting, and not general  
1589 mindfulness, that predict improvements in child outcomes (Meppelink et al., 2016; Neece,  
1590 2014). While there are currently no explicit comparisons of the benefits of mindful parenting  
1591 and general mindfulness programs, it appears that families managing child psychopathology  
1592 may benefit more from mindful parenting programs, that are targeted specifically toward  
1593 parenting difficulties, rather than from general mindfulness programs.

1594         Second, mindful parenting interventions may be useful in treating child internalizing  
1595 problems. While cognitive-behavioral therapy (CBT) enjoys empirical support as a generally  
1596 effective treatment for child internalizing problems such as anxiety disorders (MacPherson &  
1597 Fristad, 2014), the remission rate of 59% across these disorders (James et al., 2013) indicates  
1598 that a substantial proportion of children do not lose their diagnoses after CBT. For example,  
1599 it is less helpful for children whose parents are experiencing their own stressors or underlying  
1600 emotion regulation deficits (Aldao et al., 2010; Compton et al., 2014). There is therefore a  
1601 need for adjunct treatments that can address parent factors that hinder child or family CBT, or

1602 for alternative treatment approaches for families who do not wish to rely on CBT. Mindful  
1603 parenting programs have previously been found to reduce parent psychopathology (Bögels et  
1604 al., 2014). The present results have also shown that mindful parenting predicts parent emotion  
1605 regulation strategies related to child internalizing problems, and parent beliefs and behaviors  
1606 relating to child anxiety. While it remains to be shown that a mindful parenting program will  
1607 reduce problematic emotion regulation strategies, beliefs or behaviors, this study suggests  
1608 that a mindful parenting program might address these difficulties and therefore improve child  
1609 internalizing outcomes.

1610 Finally, the nature of the child's difficulties and their age should be considered when  
1611 designing and offering mindful parenting interventions to families. In relation to child  
1612 difficulties, mindful parenting interventions have, to date, largely been delivered to parents of  
1613 children with externalizing problems, who tend to experience greater reactivity toward their  
1614 children as a result of elevated parenting stress (Bögels et al., 2010). In this study, NJAPF  
1615 was the strongest predictor of child internalizing problems and most of the parent outcomes  
1616 related to child internalizing. Accordingly, in mindful parenting interventions for families of  
1617 children with internalizing problems, it may be more important to focus on building non-  
1618 judgmental acceptance of parenting than on non-reactivity. Regarding child age, the present  
1619 results showed that although NJAPF was the most important predictor of child and parent  
1620 outcomes overall, and that EAS, ENRP and CC were also relevant to parent outcomes for  
1621 both mothers of children and infants, there were some differences between the two groups of  
1622 mothers. NJAPF was slightly less important as a predictor of outcomes for mothers of infants,  
1623 and EAC was relevant only for mothers of children. Higher CC was problematic, in that it  
1624 was linked to greater use of maladaptive cognitive regulation, only for mothers of infants.  
1625 Although non-judgmental acceptance of parenting, emotional awareness of the self and child  
1626 and compassion for the child should be targeted in programs for all parents of children with

1627 internalizing difficulties, some tailoring of programs to acknowledge these differences  
1628 between parents of infants and older children might deliver additional benefits.

### 1629 **Limitations**

1630 In this study, we have identified several parent variables that might explain the  
1631 relationship between mindful parenting and child internalizing problems, namely parental  
1632 experiential avoidance, cognitive emotion regulation, and beliefs and behaviors relating to  
1633 child anxiety. However, as our data are cross-sectional, no conclusions can be drawn about  
1634 the direction of effect between mindful parenting facets and these parent variables. Future  
1635 studies are required to address the question of directionality. This could be done  
1636 experimentally, by testing whether these parent variables change following a MPP, or by  
1637 conducting path analyses with longitudinal data. We also used a community-recruited sample  
1638 for this study, for convenience. Conducting the same analysis with parents of children who  
1639 have been diagnosed with internalizing disorders may give a more reliable indication of  
1640 whether the investigated parent outcomes explain the relationship between mindful parenting  
1641 and child internalizing problems.

### 1642 **Conclusion**

1643 Mindful parenting is associated with child internalizing problems and with parental  
1644 experiential avoidance, cognitive emotion regulation and unhelpful parent beliefs and  
1645 behaviors relating to child anxiety. Several facets of mindful parenting emerged as unique  
1646 predictors of child internalizing problems and these parent variables, after controlling for  
1647 relevant demographic variables and the internalizing symptoms of children and mothers.  
1648 Non-judgmental acceptance of parental functioning and emotional awareness of the child  
1649 were important in relation to child internalizing. In relation to parent outcomes, non-  
1650 judgmental acceptance of parental functioning was the most important predictor overall.  
1651 While most facets of mindful parenting were uniquely predictive of parent outcomes for both

1652 mothers of children and infants, there were some differences between the two groups,  
1653 suggesting that child age should be considered when offering programs to parents. Mindful  
1654 parenting programs have the potential to help families of children with internalizing  
1655 problems, such as those who are not currently well-served by CBT, potentially by improving  
1656 parental emotion regulation or reducing unhelpful anxiety-related beliefs or behaviors.



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## **CHAPTER FIVE. Feasibility study**

### **A mindful parenting program for parents concerned about child internalizing problems: A randomised controlled feasibility study**

Chapter 5 presents a randomised controlled feasibility study comparing an 8-week mindful parenting program to a waitlist control, for community-recruited parents concerned about their child’s internalizing symptoms.

This Chapter reproduces the text from the published article referred to below (Appendix D1), with minor amendments made to the published version to ensure that the format of Chapter 5 is consistent with the layout of this thesis.

Burgdorf, V., Abbott, M. J., & Szabó, M. (2022). *A mindful parenting program for parents concerned about child internalizing problems: A randomised controlled feasibility study*. *Mindfulness, 13*, 430-448.

## Abstract

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1676 **Objectives:** This study sought to establish four aspects of feasibility for a mindful parenting  
1677 program: demand for the program from parents with concerns regarding their child's  
1678 internalizing problems, acceptability of the program to those parents, preliminary efficacy,  
1679 and the likelihood of successful expansion of the program to the intended population.

1680 **Methods:** The study was a pilot, randomized controlled trial comparing a mindful parenting  
1681 program to waitlist. Participants were parents ( $N = 25$ ) of children aged 3-18 years, with self-  
1682 reported concerns regarding their child's internalizing problems, recruited from the  
1683 community. Demand was assessed using recruitment and adherence rates. Acceptability was  
1684 assessed using parent-reported usefulness. Preliminary efficacy was assessed using parent  
1685 reports of child internalizing problems, mindful parenting, parenting stress, cognitive emotion  
1686 regulation, parental experiential avoidance and parent beliefs about child anxiety.

1687 Intervention group parents also provided weekly in-session data on coping in stressful  
1688 parenting situations. The likelihood of successful expansion was assessed using qualitative  
1689 feedback on whether and how the program had helped parents manage child internalizing  
1690 problems, particularly anxiety.

1691 **Results:** Feasibility was established for the four aspects assessed. The program was well-  
1692 attended and acceptable to parents. Moderate to large effects were found in favour of the  
1693 intervention group for most parent and child outcomes. Weekly data showed improved  
1694 coping in difficult parenting situations. Qualitative feedback suggested that parents believed  
1695 that increased acceptance and empathy had helped them cope with child internalizing  
1696 problems.

1697 **Conclusions:** Mindful parenting programs may assist parents of children with internalizing  
1698 problems to manage parenting stress and emotionally regulate themselves, even in difficult

1699 parenting moments. They may also reduce child internalizing problems, through improved  
1700 parental emotion regulation, and greater acceptance of and empathy for their child.

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## Introduction

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Parenting stress occurs when a parent believes that the demands of parenting outweigh their current resources to manage those demands (Östberg et al., 2007). It is associated with a range of negative outcomes, including more emotional problems in parents (Skreden et al., 2012), more social, emotional and behavioral problems in children (Anthony et al., 2005), and more negative parenting behaviors (Venta et al., 2016), which contribute to poorer outcomes for the child (Pinquart, 2017). While raising a child is stressful for most parents at least some of the time, the parenting stress literature has focused upon parents of children with externalizing problems, such as rule-breaking, aggressive or other disruptive behavior (Achenbach & Rescorla, 2001), given the strong link between parenting stress and such problems (Barroso et al., 2018). Sources of stress for these parents include child behavioral problems and parent perceptions regarding their child's emotional lability and negativity (Baker et al., 2003; Costa et al., 2017).

Despite there also being a moderately strong association between parenting stress and child internalizing problems (Barroso et al., 2018), such as symptoms of anxiety or depression (Achenbach & Rescorla, 2001), this connection with child internalizing has received less research attention (Rodriguez, 2011). The less overt nature of internalizing problems may mean the needs of the families managing these problems are more easily underestimated or overlooked (Clarke-Stewart et al., 2003; Rodriguez, 2011). However, internalizing disorders are amongst the most common types of mental health conditions in children (Polanczyk et al., 2015), with numerous negative outcomes for affected children (Swan & Kendall, 2016). Child internalizing problems also negatively impact families by adding to parenting stress, including by contributing to parental beliefs that the child has a difficult temperament (Fernandes, et al., 2020), worries about the child's ability to cope, and disappointment about the child not meeting expectations (Costa et al., 2006). Further, as well

1728 as parenting stress being an outcome of child internalizing, longitudinal evidence shows  
1729 parenting stress is a risk factor for later child internalizing problems (Stone et al., 2016).  
1730 Parents of children with internalizing difficulties should therefore be supported to reduce or  
1731 manage their stress levels for their own well-being, and to reduce the risk of contributing to  
1732 their child's internalizing problems.

1733         One factor that helps parents to cope better with stress is parental mindfulness  
1734 (Campbell et al., 2017). Mindfulness in parenting involves a parent paying moment-to-  
1735 moment, non-judgmental, non-reactive attention to their child (Kabat-Zinn & Kabat-Zinn,  
1736 1997), which helps them to regulate their emotional experiences as a parent and their  
1737 behaviors with their child (Duncan et al., 2009). A more mindful parenting style can be  
1738 developed through mindfulness training (Meppelink et al., 2016). Mindful parenting  
1739 programs (MPPs) are typically based on mindfulness-based stress reduction (MBSR; Kabat-  
1740 Zinn et al., 1992) and mindfulness-based cognitive therapy (Segal et al., 2013) programs, but  
1741 concentrate on particular challenges faced by parents (Bögels et al., 2014). These include  
1742 being aware and accepting of the “whole” child, rather than focusing on perceived  
1743 weaknesses or problems, tolerating negative thoughts and emotions regarding the child,  
1744 perspective-taking and empathizing with the child, and being compassionate towards the  
1745 child and the self as a parent (Bögels & Restifo, 2013).

1746         Numerous studies have investigated the benefits of MPPs over the past decade. A  
1747 recent meta-analysis of these studies found that MPPs reduce parenting stress and are  
1748 associated with reductions in children's internalizing and externalizing problems (Burgdorf et  
1749 al., 2019). However, most clinical programs have been run for parents of children with a  
1750 primary externalizing diagnosis (for example, Jones et al., 2018). Only one published study  
1751 has catered specifically for parents of children with a primary internalizing diagnosis (Racey  
1752 et al., 2017). As this study did not assess parenting stress, it is not known whether MPPs

1753 reduce parenting stress specifically for parents of children with primary internalizing  
1754 problems. Further, although the adolescents in Racey et al. (2017) reported fewer  
1755 internalizing symptoms after the intervention, they attended a separate mindfulness course in  
1756 parallel to the MPP attended by their parents, so it is not known whether their symptoms  
1757 improved as a result of their own program or the MPP. Accordingly, with the exception of  
1758 Racey et al., the published literature has assessed internalizing problems only as comorbid  
1759 symptoms in groups of children where the majority of primary diagnoses were for  
1760 externalizing disorders. More targeted research is needed to confirm whether MPPs reduce  
1761 parenting stress and child internalizing problems in families whose primary concern is child  
1762 internalizing.

1763 Children with primary internalizing problems have a genetic and temperamental  
1764 vulnerability to internalizing problems, which may be exacerbated by overprotective  
1765 parenting (Edwards et al., 2010; Rapee, 2012). In contrast, some children with co-morbid  
1766 internalizing problems tend to develop these as a result of their primary externalizing  
1767 problems, for example when these lead to social rejection or academic problems (Willner et  
1768 al., 2016). Given these different risk factors for primary and comorbid internalizing problems,  
1769 MPPs could impact the internalizing problems of these two groups of children in different  
1770 ways. However, the limited research regarding MPPs and child internalizing means that little  
1771 is known about how mindful parenting might reduce child internalizing problems. According  
1772 to Burgdorf et al.'s (2019) meta-analysis of MPPs, the majority of which related to children  
1773 with primary externalizing disorders, reductions in comorbid internalizing problems were not  
1774 predicted by reductions in parenting stress. Instead, Emerson et al. (2019a) found they were  
1775 partially explained by reductions in parental experiential avoidance, defined as a parent's  
1776 difficulty experiencing their child's negative feelings and managing their own reactions to  
1777 those negative feelings (Tiwari et al., 2008). Correlational data from community-recruited

1778 families has shown that mindful parenting is related to child internalizing problems and  
1779 parental experiential avoidance, cognitive emotion regulation and parental beliefs and  
1780 behaviors relating to child anxiety (Burgdorf & Szabó, 2021), which are each related to child  
1781 internalizing symptoms (Drake & Ginsburg, 2012; Wald et al., 2018). Experimental research  
1782 showing improvements in these parent variables following a MPP would provide further  
1783 evidence of how more mindful parenting could explain reduced child internalizing in families  
1784 of children with primary internalizing concerns.

1785         As parent-only MPPs have not been studied specifically in families of children with  
1786 internalizing problems, it is not known whether these programs will be viewed favorably by  
1787 their parents. Parents of children who experience anxiety tend to be distressed by and  
1788 avoidant of both their own and their child's negative emotion (Tiwari et al., 2008), and to  
1789 believe that shielding their child from negative experiences and distress is beneficial (Kiel et  
1790 al., 2019; Rousseau & Scharf, 2017). They may, therefore, not wish to change any avoidant  
1791 or (over)protective behavior associated with these beliefs by attending a MPP, which  
1792 encourages parents to remain in contact with the negative emotions both of and relating to  
1793 their child (Bögels & Restifo, 2013). Similarly, the tendency for parents of children suffering  
1794 from depression to emotionally withdraw from their child (Yap et al., 2014) may limit  
1795 parents' desire or motivation to engage in a treatment program which emphasizes emotional  
1796 connection. Further, this study proposed to recruit parents from the community, since  
1797 baseline parenting stress is the same for parents of children with a mental health diagnosis  
1798 and help-seeking parents without a diagnosis (Potharst et al., 2018a). As parenting programs  
1799 in non-clinical settings can have high attrition rates (Axford et al., 2012), there is also  
1800 uncertainty about what proportion of enrolled parents would complete the program. Prior to  
1801 running a full-scale study, it would be prudent to evaluate the feasibility of a MPP for parents  
1802 recruited in the community, with concerns regarding their child's emotional wellbeing.

1803           The objective of this study was therefore to investigate several aspects of the  
1804 feasibility of a mindful parenting program for parents with concerns regarding their child's  
1805 internalizing problems. Despite the uncertainty, we hypothesized that a mindful parenting  
1806 program for parents with concerns regarding their child's internalizing problems would be  
1807 feasible. Specifically, we expected that help-seeking parents would attend the program and  
1808 find it acceptable. We also expected that the intervention group would report moderate  
1809 improvements in parenting stress, parental experiential avoidance, cognitive emotion  
1810 regulation and beliefs about child anxiety, small improvements in child internalizing  
1811 problems, and that differences between the intervention and control groups would favour the  
1812 intervention group. Last, we expected that parents would report that the program helped them  
1813 manage child internalizing symptoms, including anxiety, through improved emotional  
1814 awareness and acceptance.

1815

## Method

### **Participants**

1817           Participants were 25 parents who wished to take part in a pilot randomized controlled  
1818 trial comparing an 8-week mindful parenting program to waitlist. The sample size was based  
1819 on the recommendations made by Whitehead et al. (2016) for an 80% powered main trial  
1820 with two-sided 5% significance, where the standardised effect sizes are expected to be small  
1821 to medium. Individuals could be included in the study if they were a parent (or acting in the  
1822 role of parent) with a child aged 3 to 18 years, whose primary self-reported concern regarding  
1823 their child was the child's internalizing symptoms. Exclusion criteria were: (1) parent's  
1824 inadequate mastery of the English language; (2) parent or child participating in another  
1825 parenting course or psychological therapy for managing child or parent well-being; (3) parent  
1826 having organic brain damage; (4) parent having current or historic psychotic or bipolar  
1827 disorder; (5) parent having current or recent (within last year) substance dependence; (6)



1828 parent having significant interpersonal difficulties (such as anti-social behavior); (7) parent at  
 1829 current, moderate to high risk of self-harm or suicide; (8) current substantial risk of abuse of  
 1830 any child in the family; or (9) intellectual disability in the child regarding whom assistance  
 1831 was sought. Intervention group parents were significantly older ( $M = 42.45$  years,  $SD = 4.85$ )  
 1832 than waitlist parents ( $M = 37.75$  years,  $SD = 4.67$ ) ( $t(21) = 2.37, p = .03$ ). There was no  
 1833 difference in the mean age of children of parents in the intervention ( $M = 6.27$  years,  $SD =$   
 1834  $1.95$ ) and waitlist ( $M = 6.00$  years,  $SD = 3.13$ ) groups. Table 1 contains additional  
 1835 demographic information regarding the participants. There were no significant differences  
 1836 between the parent groups on these demographic variables, or on pre-program scores for any  
 1837 of the outcome variables.

1838 **Table 1**

1839 *Demographic characteristics of participants*

Characteristic	Intervention group ( $n = 11$ )		Waitlist group ( $n = 12$ )		Group difference
	$n$	%	$n$	%	$\chi^2$ ( $df$ )
Child gender					0.38 (1)
Female	6	54.5	5	41.7	
Male	5	45.5	7	58.3	
Parent relation to child					0.00 (1)
Mother	10	90.9	11	91.7	
Father	1	9.1	1	8.3	
Caregiver role					1.23 (2)
Primary carer	6	54.5	9	75.0	
Equal carer <sup>a</sup>	4	36.4	2	16.7	
Secondary carer	1	9.1	1	8.3	
No. of children in family					2.04 (2)
1	1	9.1	4	33.3	
2	7	63.6	6	50.0	
3	3	27.3	2	16.7	
Parent cultural identity					2.96 (3)
Australian	10	90.9	10	83.3	
UK	0	0	1	8.3	
Eastern European	0	0	1	8.3	
Middle Eastern	1	9.1	0	0	

1840 *Table 1 continued*

Characteristic	Intervention group ( <i>n</i> = 11)		Waitlist group ( <i>n</i> = 12)		Group difference
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	$\chi^2$ ( <i>df</i> )
Parent highest level of education					.01 (2)
Post-graduate or Bachelor degree	9	81.8	10	83.3	
Associate degree or vocational training	1	9.1	1	8.3	
Secondary school or other	1	9.1	1	8.3	
Parent previous mental health diagnosis					3.16 (1)
Yes	0	0	3	25.0	
No	11	100	9	75.0	
History of mindfulness practice					0.52 (1)
Yes	3	27.3	5	41.7	
No	8	72.7	7	58.3	
Length of mindfulness practice					.04 (1)
< 1 year	2	66.7	3	60.0	
≥ 1 year	1	33.3	2	40.0	
Frequency of mindfulness practice					.04 (1)
< monthly	2	66.7	3	60.0	
≥ monthly	1	33.3	2	40.0	

1841 *Note.* <sup>a</sup>Equal carer is a parent who reports sharing the care of their child approximately equally with another  
1842 person.

1843

1844 **Procedure**

1845 Ethical approval (793/2019) was obtained from the Human Research Ethics  
1846 Committee of The University of Sydney. Informed written consent was obtained from all  
1847 participants in the study. The CONSORT 2010 Statement: Extension to Randomized Pilot  
1848 and Feasibility Trials (Eldridge et al., 2016) was used to guide the reporting of this trial.  
1849 Study advertisements were distributed to potential participants in January 2020, either by  
1850 email to parents who had previously asked to be notified by the University about mindfulness  
1851 programs for parents, or on Facebook. The Facebook advertisement was displayed over a 10-  
1852 day period, to individuals located within the metropolitan area of Sydney, Australia and  
1853 interested in the topic areas of “Motherhood”, “Fatherhood”, “Parenting”, “Family”, or  
1854 “Parents”. The advertisements directed potential participants to a registration of interest form

1855 on the data collection website Qualtrics, where they could provide contact details and access  
1856 the participant information statement and consent form. Of the 102 individuals who  
1857 registered their interest in participating, 56 were able to be contacted by telephone and  
1858 assessed for eligibility. Of these individuals, 25 were eligible, able to attend the program on  
1859 the scheduled dates, and provided consent to participate (see Figure 1). To ensure allocation  
1860 concealment during randomisation, these 25 participants were randomly allocated on a 1:1  
1861 basis to the intervention ( $n = 12$ ) or waitlist control ( $n = 13$ ) groups using the website  
1862 random.org.

1863         The program delivered in this study was adapted from the 8-week x 3-hour mindful  
1864 parenting group program developed for parents experiencing parenting stress by Bögels and  
1865 Restifo (2013). The adapted program consisted of eight weekly 2-hour group sessions: (1)  
1866 Automatic pilot, (2) Beginner's mind, (3) Reconnecting with the body, (4) Responding versus  
1867 reacting, (5) Parenting patterns and schemas, (6) Conflict and parenting, (7) Love and limits,  
1868 and (8) Are we there yet? A mindful path through parenting. Each session consisted of an  
1869 overview of the session theme/s, group discussion of home practice exercises, formal  
1870 meditation practices followed by a group inquiry regarding each practice, and  
1871 mindfulness/visualization exercises and discussions related to the week's theme. The  
1872 program was run at 6.00 – 8.00 p.m. on Tuesdays during school term, from February to April  
1873 2020. The first five sessions were delivered face-to-face at The University of Sydney, and the  
1874 remaining three sessions were conducted online using Zoom, due to the closure of the  
1875 University campus during the COVID-19 pandemic. The program was offered to the control  
1876 group after all data collection was completed. The program was facilitated by two of the  
1877 authors, a registered clinical psychology registrar (VB) and a registered clinical psychologist  
1878 (MS). Both authors have experience working with parents and in group therapy, have a

1879 personal mindfulness practice, and have completed mindful parenting teacher training with  
1880 Professor Susan Bögels at the University of Amsterdam.

1881         Some adaptations were made to the Bögels and Restifo (2013) program. Because the  
1882 program was being run for parents concerned about their child’s emotional well-being rather  
1883 than behavioral problems, in exercises which asked parents to visualize a stressful parenting  
1884 situation, we used examples such as a child with anxiety refusing to separate from a parent.  
1885 The weekly session length was reduced from three to two hours, as parents were recruited  
1886 from the community rather than treatment clinics. We did this by shortening several formal  
1887 meditation practices, including body scans and sitting meditations, and omitting the yoga  
1888 practices. Facilitating the final three sessions of the program via Zoom also required some  
1889 changes to program content and mode of delivery. These changes included omitting the  
1890 walking meditations, using the Zoom “share screen” function as a whiteboard for parent input  
1891 during group exercises, and the “breakout rooms” function for parents to work in pairs. For  
1892 body scans and a standing meditation, some parents chose to turn off their camera during the  
1893 practice. Apart from these changes, the online sessions were run as similarly as possible to  
1894 the face-to-face sessions, including the presence of facilitators at all times. Parents were  
1895 encouraged to act as if they were together in the same room with the facilitators and other  
1896 group members. For example, parents were asked to find a private space for the sessions,  
1897 where they could participate in meditation exercises and group discussions free from  
1898 interruptions from other family members.

## 1899 **Measures**

### 1900 *Feasibility*

1901         Bowen et al. (2009) outlined eight potential areas of focus for feasibility studies. We  
1902 used four of these areas to assess feasibility in this study: Demand, Acceptability, Limited-  
1903 efficacy testing and Expansion. Demand relates to the likely use of an intervention by the

1904 intended population. We assessed this for parents whose primary concern regarding their  
1905 child was their internalizing symptoms, through: (a) recruitment rates, calculated as the  
1906 proportion of parents who enrolled in the study (i) after the initial contact from the  
1907 researchers, and (ii) after registering their interest in participating; (b) attendance rate, being  
1908 the average attendance rate of parents over 8 sessions; (c) completion rate, being the  
1909 proportion of parents completing at least 6 of the 8 sessions; (d) withdrawal rate, or the  
1910 proportion of parents who withdrew from the study after randomization but before the start of  
1911 the program; and (e) attrition rate, being the proportion of parents who began the program but  
1912 did not attend at least 4 sessions.

1913           Acceptability refers to the reactions of the participants to an intervention. We assessed  
1914 acceptability by measuring parent perceptions of program usefulness, including in relation to  
1915 the COVID-19 pandemic, based on the parent feedback form in Bögels and Restifo (2013).  
1916 Parents responded to the questions (a) “Which group format did you prefer? (*Face-to-*  
1917 *face/Online*); (b) “To what extent did the COVID-19 pandemic affect your ability to benefit  
1918 from the program?” where 1 = *Very positive impact* to 7 = *Very negative impact*; (c) “How  
1919 important has the training been for you, overall?” on a scale of 1 to 10 (1 = *Not useful at all*,  
1920 10 = *Extremely useful*); (d) “Do you feel you got something of lasting value or importance as  
1921 a result of doing this program?” (*yes/no*) and (e) “Would you recommend the program to  
1922 friends or family members?” (*yes/no*).

1923           Limited-efficacy testing refers to obtaining preliminary evidence of program effects  
1924 with a small sample, in order to estimate sample and effect sizes for a full-scale trial. We  
1925 obtained preliminary evidence of effects through parent self-reports on the outcome measures  
1926 described below. Except where otherwise indicated, all self-report questionnaires were  
1927 completed by parents online, through Qualtrics. The demographic and mindfulness practice  
1928 information contained in Table 1 was collected from all parents one week prior to the

1929 program. The other questionnaires were completed by all parents one week prior to the  
1930 program (pre-program), after the fourth session (mid-program), upon completion (post-  
1931 program), and two months after completion (follow-up). The data on weekly coping with  
1932 parenting stress was collected from intervention group parents weekly, in-session.

1933 Expansion relates to the likelihood of successfully using an existing intervention with  
1934 a new population or in a different setting. We did this by collecting qualitative feedback from  
1935 parents regarding whether and how the program had helped them.

### 1936 ***Mindful Parenting***

1937 The Interpersonal Mindfulness in Parenting scale (IMP; Duncan, 2007, Duncan et al.,  
1938 2009) assesses mindful parenting. The items are rated using a 5-point Likert scale, ranging  
1939 from 1 = *Never True* to 5 = *Always True*. Fourteen items (1, 5, 9-15, 17, 19, 23, 26, 29) are  
1940 reverse coded, and higher scores indicate more mindful parenting. We used the 29-item, six-  
1941 factor version of the IMP, which has the subscales Listening with Full Attention (LFA; “I  
1942 rush through activities with my child without really being attentive to him/her”), Compassion  
1943 for the Child (CC; “I am kind to my child when he/she is upset”), Non-judgmental  
1944 Acceptance of Parental Functioning (NJAPF; “I tend to be hard on myself when I make  
1945 mistakes as a parent”), Emotional Awareness of the Child (EAC; “It is hard for me to tell  
1946 what my child is feeling”), Emotional Awareness of Self (EAS; “When I’m upset with my  
1947 child, I notice how I am feeling before I take action”), and Emotional Non-reactivity in  
1948 Parenting (ENRP; “I often react too quickly to what my child says or does”) (Burgdorf &  
1949 Szabó, 2021; de Bruin et al., 2014). A total score is calculated by summing all items. The  
1950 IMP has demonstrated good convergent and divergent validity (Burgdorf & Szabó, 2021; de  
1951 Bruin et al., 2014). Pre-program internal consistency (Cronbach’s alpha) and reliability  
1952 (McDonald’s omega; see Hayes & Coutts, 2020 and McDonald, 1999) in the current sample  
1953 was  $\alpha=.72$ ,  $\omega=.72$  for LFA,  $\alpha=.90$ ,  $\omega=.91$  for CC,  $\alpha=.85$ ,  $\omega=.86$  for NJAPF,  $\alpha=.82$ ,  $\omega=.82$  for

1954 EAC,  $\alpha=.81$ ,  $\omega=.83$  for EAS,  $\alpha=.80$ ,  $\omega=.83$  for ENRP, and  $\alpha=.93$ ,  $\omega=.92$  for IMP total. Post-  
1955 program internal consistency was  $\alpha=.83$ ,  $\omega=.86$  for LFA,  $\alpha=.90$ ,  $\omega=.90$  for CC,  $\alpha=.91$ ,  $\omega=.91$   
1956 for NJAPF,  $\alpha=.69$ ,  $\omega=.74$  for EAC,  $\alpha=.93$ ,  $\omega=.93$  for EAS,  $\alpha=.91$ ,  $\omega=.91$  for ENRP and  
1957  $\alpha=.95$ ,  $\omega=.95$  for IMP total.

### 1958 ***Parenting Stress***

1959 The 18-item Parental Stress Scale (PSS; Berry & Jones, 1995) measures stress  
1960 associated with the parenting role, for example “I feel overwhelmed by the responsibility of  
1961 being a parent”. The items are rated on a 5-point scale, going from 1 = *Strongly disagree* to 5  
1962 = *Strongly agree*. Items 1, 2, 5- 8, 17, and 18 are reverse-scored, with a higher score  
1963 indicating more parenting-related stress. Berry and Jones (1995) reported good convergent  
1964 and discriminant validity for the PSS, and high internal consistency. In this study, pre-  
1965 program  $\alpha=.74$  and  $\omega=.67$ , and post-program  $\alpha=.78$  and  $\omega=.69$ .

### 1966 ***Cognitive Emotion Regulation***

1967 The Cognitive Emotion Regulation Questionnaire – Short Form (CERQ; Garnefski &  
1968 Kraaij, 2006) contains 18 items measuring the cognitive emotion regulation strategies that an  
1969 individual tends to use in negative situations. Responses are given on a 5-point scale ranging  
1970 from 1 = (*Almost*) *never* to 5 = (*Almost*) *always*. The CERQ contains five subscales  
1971 (Acceptance, Positive Refocusing, Refocus on Planning, Putting into Perspective, Positive  
1972 Reappraisal) that can be combined into an Adaptive scale, measuring generally helpful  
1973 strategies, for example “I think about how to change the situation”. It also contains four  
1974 subscales (Self-blame, Other-blame, Rumination, Catastrophizing) that can be combined into  
1975 a Maladaptive scale, measuring generally unhelpful strategies, for example “I think that  
1976 basically the cause must lie within myself”. A higher scale score indicates more frequent use  
1977 of the strategies in that scale. The short form CERQ has demonstrated acceptable validity and  
1978 internal consistency (Garnefski & Kraaij, 2006). In this study, however, items 22 and 27 from

1979 the CERQ Adaptive scale had very low item-total correlations (.07 and -.07, respectively), so  
1980 were excluded from the scale. In this study, for the shortened Adaptive scale,  $\alpha=.74$  and  
1981  $\omega=.74$  pre-program and  $\alpha=.85$ ,  $\omega=.78$  post-program. For the Maladaptive scale was  $\alpha=.83$ ,  
1982  $\omega=.85$  pre-program, and  $\alpha=.65$ ,  $\omega=.66$  post-program.

### 1983 ***Parental Experiential Avoidance***

1984 The Parental Acceptance and Action Questionnaire (PAAQ; Cheron et al., 2009)  
1985 measures experiential avoidance in parenting, being a parent's unwillingness to witness their  
1986 child's negative emotion and their inability to manage their own reactions to those negative  
1987 feelings, for example "I try hard to avoid having my child feel depressed or anxious". There  
1988 are 15-items rated on a 7-point scale from 1 = *Never true* to 7 = *Always true*. Items 1, 5-7, 10  
1989 and 11 are reverse scored and higher scores indicate more experiential avoidance. The items  
1990 are summed to create a Total score. Cheron et al. (2009) have reported the PAAQ's  
1991 concurrent validity and adequate internal consistency. In this study, pre-program  $\alpha=.80$ ,  
1992  $\omega=.79$  and post-program  $\alpha=.85$ ,  $\omega=.84$ .

### 1993 ***Parent Beliefs Regarding Child Anxiety***

1994 The Parental Attitudes, Beliefs and Understanding about Anxiety scale (PABUA;  
1995 Wolk et al., 2016) measures a parent's beliefs and attitudes about their child's anxiety, with  
1996 three scales: Overprotection, Approach and Distress. Wolk et al. (2016) reported the PABUA  
1997 to have adequate to good internal consistency and good convergent and divergent validity,  
1998 but in this study the Approach and Distress scales were excluded from analyses due to poor  
1999 internal consistency and reliability (Approach:  $\alpha=.46$ ,  $\omega=.59$  pre-program and  $\alpha=.49$ ,  $\omega=.72$   
2000 post-program; Distress:  $\alpha=.54$ ,  $\omega=.54$  pre-program and  $\alpha=.56$ ,  $\omega=.60$  post-program). We  
2001 therefore used only the Overprotection scale, which measures parent beliefs about the need to  
2002 protect their child from anxiety. Pre-program  $\alpha=.79$ ,  $\omega=.81$  and post-program  $\alpha=.77$ ,  $\omega=.75$ .  
2003 The 11 items in the Overprotection scale, for example "It is important that I protect my child



2004 from feeling anxious”, are answered on a 5-point scale, from 1 = *Strongly disagree* to 5 =  
2005 *Strongly agree*, with higher scores indicating less helpful beliefs about anxiety.

### 2006 ***Child Internalizing Symptoms***

2007 We used the parent report versions of the Child Behavior Checklist (CBCL;  
2008 Achenbach & Rescorla, 2000, 2001) for preschool-aged children (3-5 years) and school-aged  
2009 children (6-18 years), to assess child internalizing, with the broadband Internalizing Problems  
2010 scale (33 items, for example “Unhappy, sad or depressed” and “Too fearful or anxious”). The  
2011 items have a 3-point response scale, where 0 = *Not true (as far as you know)*, 1 = *Somewhat*  
2012 *or sometimes true* and 2 = *Very true or often true*. A higher score indicates more problems.  
2013 The CBCL has strong convergent and discriminant validity and internal consistency  
2014 (Achenbach & Rescorla, 2000, 2001). In this sample, the Internalizing scale had pre-program  
2015 Cronbach’s alphas of .83 (school-age) and .84 (preschool-age) and post-program alphas of  
2016 .85 (school-age) and .63 (preschool-age). Reliability could not be calculated using  
2017 McDonald’s omega due to some items having zero variance. This is likely to be due to the  
2018 restricted range of symptom severity amongst children of community-recruited families.

### 2019 ***Weekly Coping with Parenting Stress***

2020 To investigate whether the intervention group parents were benefitting from the  
2021 program at specific moments of parenting stress, not just at a general trait level, we assessed  
2022 the intensity of parenting stress, and various aspects of parents’ mindfulness, weekly  
2023 throughout the program in relation to specific, stressful parenting situations. At the beginning  
2024 of each of the eight sessions, intervention group parents were guided to visualise a stressful or  
2025 difficult situation that they had experienced in the past week with or relating to their child.  
2026 They were encouraged to imagine themselves back in that situation, and to recall as vividly as  
2027 possible what they were thinking and feeling at the time. In-session, immediately following  
2028 that guided visualisation, we assessed intensity of parenting stress (“During this difficult

2029 situation regarding your child, how intensely did you feel stressed (or overwhelmed or unable  
2030 to cope)?” on a scale of 1 = *Not at all* to 7 = *Extremely intensely*). In relation to parents’  
2031 experiences during that difficult situation, we assessed (1) the ability to decenter from  
2032 thoughts and emotions (“I experienced my thoughts and/or feelings as events in my mind,  
2033 rather than as reflections of reality”), (2) experiential avoidance (“I wished I did not have to  
2034 deal with what was happening” and “It was unpleasant or uncomfortable to experience my  
2035 own emotions, and/or watch my child’s emotions”), and (3) self-regulation (“I paused to  
2036 notice how I was feeling about the situation, before I did anything else”). These statements  
2037 were rated on a scale of 1 = *Not at all true* to 7 = *Extremely true*. For the 5 face-to-face  
2038 sessions, these assessments were completed on paper by parents individually, without  
2039 discussion, with a facilitator collecting the questionnaires prior to the rest of the session  
2040 proceeding. For the 3 Zoom sessions, parents received a personal link to the questionnaire on  
2041 Zoom and submitted their answers online prior to the rest of the session proceeding.

#### 2042 ***Qualitative Assessment of Pathways from Mindful Parenting to Child Internalizing***

2043         After program completion, the parents were asked the following questions online,  
2044 through Qualtrics, about whether and how they believed the program had helped them as  
2045 parents, including in relation to any perceived child anxiety: (1) Has your relationship with  
2046 your emotions changed? If yes, how? (2) Did the program change the way you experience  
2047 your child? If yes, how has this changed? (3) Do you think mindfulness can help you cope  
2048 with your child’s anxiety? If yes, how do you think it will help? (4) Did the mindful parenting  
2049 program change the way you view your child’s anxiety? If yes, how did this change?  
2050 The initial questions were kept short and closed (*yes/no*), and were then immediately  
2051 followed by a broad, open question (*If yes, how...?*). This technique is recommended for the  
2052 online collection of qualitative data, in order to sufficiently direct participants’ attention to  
2053 the issues the researcher wishes them to consider, whilst providing participants the freedom

2054 to explain what their own thoughts or experiences were regarding those issues (Braun et al.,  
2055 2020). The questions directed parents' attention to whether they changed their relationship  
2056 with their own and their child's emotions, and whether they believed an aspect of  
2057 mindfulness was behind this change, because we were interested to know whether the beliefs  
2058 that parents expressed about these issues converged with any changes under the self-report  
2059 measures, in particular the IMP.

## 2060 **Data Analyses**

2061 To examine within- and between-group differences between pre-program scores, and  
2062 mid-program, post-program, and 2-month follow-up scores, we used Microsoft Excel (2003)  
2063 to calculate Cohen's *d* standardised mean difference effect sizes. For within-group analyses,  
2064 we used the difference between time 1 and 2 means divided by the standard deviation within  
2065 group and assumed a correlation of  $r = 0.7$  to calculate the standard deviation within group  
2066 (for details, see Borenstein et al., 2009). For the between-group analyses, although there were  
2067 no significant differences between groups on pre-program outcome scores, this may have  
2068 been partly due to the low numbers in each group. In order to account for any pre-program  
2069 differences between groups, we therefore used the difference between the treatment and  
2070 control group change scores, divided by the pooled pre-program standard deviations (for  
2071 details, see Morris, 2008). An effect size of 0.2 represents a small effect, 0.5 a moderate  
2072 effect and 0.8 a large effect (Cohen, 1988). In line with CONSORT guidelines for reporting  
2073 results of pilot trials that are not powered to test effectiveness, we did not test for statistical  
2074 significance of these within- or between-group changes (Eldridge et al., 2016).

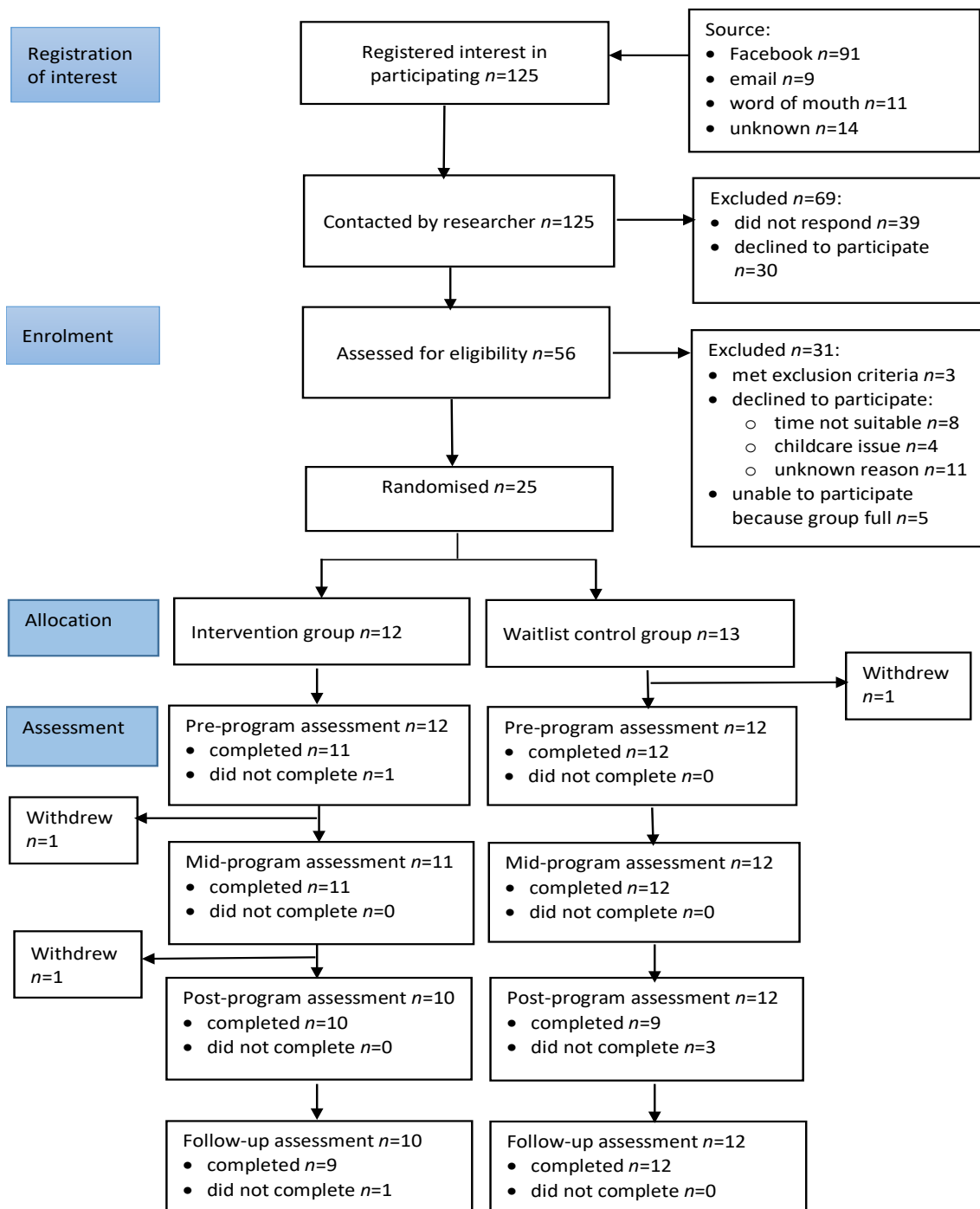
2075 For the intervention group's weekly coping data, we conducted repeated-measures  
2076 ANOVAs using IBM SPSS Statistics for Windows (Version 26), to examine the pattern of  
2077 change in that data across the 8-week program. As there were numerous trends in the data  
2078 that could have been reported, we have reported only the largest of the trends that reached



2104 study, 22.0% were enrolled in the study. Overall, 2.1% of individuals contacted via Facebook  
 2105 enrolled in the study. For those individuals contacted by email who subsequently registered  
 2106 their interest in participating, 22.2% enrolled. Overall, we enrolled 3.4% of the individuals  
 2107 contacted by email.

2108 **Figure 1**

2109 *Flow of participants from registration of interest to follow-up assessment*



2110

2111 **Table 2**

2112 *Participant recruitment rates*

Location of study advertisement	Initial contacts made <sup>a</sup> ( <i>n</i> )	Registrations of interest ( <i>n</i> )	Study enrolments ( <i>n</i> )	Recruitment rate by contact <sup>b</sup>	Recruitment rate by registration <sup>c</sup>
Facebook	965	91	20	2.1%	22.0%
Email	58	9	2	3.4%	22.2%
Other <sup>d</sup>	-	25	3	-	12.0%
Total	1023	125	25	2.4%	20.0%

2113 *Note.* <sup>a</sup>For email = number of study advertisement emails sent; for Facebook = number of engagements by  
 2114 Facebook users with the post advertising the study; <sup>b</sup>Enrolments as a percentage of initial contacts; <sup>c</sup>Enrolments  
 2115 as a percentage of registrations of interest; <sup>d</sup>Parents who heard about the study through word-of-mouth and  
 2116 independently approached the researchers; as the researchers did not initiate contact with these parents, no  
 2117 recruitment rate by contact is available for this category.

2118

2119

2120 The average attendance rate of intervention group parents (*n* = 12) was six out of  
 2121 eight sessions (75%). Two parents were unable to continue their attendance after the fourth  
 2122 session for reasons related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Nine of the 12 parents attended at  
 2123 least six sessions, giving a completion rate of 75%. One parent from each of the intervention  
 2124 and waitlist (*n* = 13) groups withdrew from the study after randomization but before the  
 2125 intervention began, giving a withdrawal rate of 8%. Two of the 12 intervention group parents  
 2126 completed less than four sessions, giving an attrition rate of 16.7%.

2127 **Acceptability**

2128 In relation to perceived usefulness of the program and the impact of COVID-19,  
 2129 100% of parents reported that they preferred face-to-face over online groups. Twenty percent  
 2130 of parents reported that the pandemic had a very positive impact on their ability to benefit  
 2131 from the program, while 60% said it had a minor negative impact and 20% said it had a  
 2132 moderate negative impact. Despite the majority of parents reporting that the pandemic  
 2133 negatively affected their ability to benefit from the program, parents reported that the  
 2134 program had been important for them, with 20% rating the program an 8, 40% rating it a 9

2135 and 40% rating it a 10, on a scale of *1 = Not useful at all, 10 = Extremely useful*. In addition,  
2136 100% of parents reported that they believed they had got something of lasting value or  
2137 importance as a result of doing the program, and 100% of parents reported that they would  
2138 recommend the program to family or friends.

### 2139 **Limited-efficacy Testing**

2140 The means and standard deviations for each outcome at each measurement point are  
2141 shown in Table 3, for both intervention and waitlist groups. Table 4 shows the within- and  
2142 between-group Cohen's *d* effect sizes for the changes in those outcomes. Between-group  
2143 differences all favored the intervention group. At program completion (T3), differences  
2144 between the intervention and waitlist control groups were moderate to large, except for  
2145 CERQ Adaptive, where the difference was small, and CBCL Pre-school Internalizing, which  
2146 was negligible. At follow-up (T4), the differences remained moderate to large, except for  
2147 CBCL Pre-school Internalizing and IMP Compassion for the Child, where the differences  
2148 were negligible, and CERQ Adaptive, where the differences were small.

2149 In relation to within-group changes, the intervention group outcomes generally  
2150 improved from pre- to mid-program (T1-T2) and from mid- to post-program (T2-T3). At  
2151 program completion (T1-T3), the intervention group showed moderate to large improvements  
2152 from pre-program on all outcomes except CBCL Pre-school Internalizing, which showed  
2153 negligible change, and CBCL School Internalizing and CERQ Adaptive, which both showed  
2154 small improvements. Small to moderate improvements then continued to be made on most  
2155 outcomes between program completion and 2-month follow-up (T3-T4), such that at follow  
2156 up (T1-T4), the improvements from pre-program remained moderate to large, except for  
2157 CBCL Pre-school Internalizing and CERQ Adaptive, which were small.

2158

2159

2160 **Table 3**2161 *Means and standard deviations for child and parent outcomes, for intervention and waitlist*2162 *control groups*

Outcomes	Pre-program (T1)			Mid- program (T2)			Post-program (T3)			Follow-up (T4)		
	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>n</i>
IMP Total												
Intervention	93.91	12.28	11	101.45	10.70	11	106.40	11.23	10	108.78	13.99	9
Waitlist	93.83	15.04	12	96.92	17.98	12	91.67	16.82	9	96.83	15.01	12
IMP LFA												
Intervention	15.55	2.25	11	16.82	1.72	11	17.50	2.01	10	18.33	2.24	9
Waitlist	15.08	2.11	12	16.00	3.10	12	14.67	2.12	9	15.33	2.84	12
IMP CC												
Intervention	23.91	4.28	11	24.82	3.06	11	25.40	3.92	10	25.44	4.59	9
Waitlist	23.58	3.55	12	23.58	3.45	12	22.78	2.91	9	24.92	2.87	12
IMP NJAPF												
Intervention	17.18	4.75	11	18.55	4.39	11	20.50	3.24	10	21.56	4.10	9
Waitlist	17.33	4.19	12	17.33	5.05	12	15.78	5.74	9	17.17	4.22	12
IMP EAC												
Intervention	10.45	1.29	11	10.91	1.22	11	11.70	1.06	10	11.78	1.86	9
Waitlist	11.50	2.07	12	11.58	2.35	12	12.00	1.41	9	11.50	1.93	12
IMP EAS												
Intervention	11.45	1.69	11	13.73	2.00	11	14.10	1.79	10	13.78	2.44	9
Waitlist	11.58	3.06	12	12.83	3.07	12	11.89	4.88	9	12.58	3.80	12
IMP ENRP												
Intervention	15.36	2.66	11	16.64	3.11	11	17.20	2.62	10	17.89	3.14	9
Waitlist	14.75	3.96	12	15.58	4.78	12	14.56	4.59	9	15.33	4.05	12
PSS												
Intervention	44.45	5.05	11	41.18	5.49	11	37.30	6.58	10	34.00	4.97	9
Waitlist	44.25	7.81	12	44.25	8.78	12	44.67	3.97	9	43.17	9.08	12
CERQ Adaptive												
Intervention	22.45	5.32	11	22.09	4.66	11	23.30	7.38	10	25.00	6.25	9
Waitlist	21.75	4.35	12	22.17	3.21	12	22.00	2.12	9	23.58	4.58	12
CERQ Maladaptive												
Intervention	20.45	6.62	11	17.45	3.75	11	17.10	3.07	10	16.44	1.94	9
Waitlist	18.58	2.87	12	19.33	3.39	12	18.33	4.50	9	18.08	3.29	12
PAAQ Total												
Intervention	57.18	10.00	11	48.45	9.84	11	45.80	11.15	10	45.22	8.38	9
Waitlist	54.42	12.44	12	54.42	12.77	12	57.44	9.19	9	52.42	11.93	12

2163

2164



2165 *Table 3 continued*

Outcomes	Pre-program (T1)			Mid- program (T2)			Post-program (T3)			Follow-up (T4)		
	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>n</i>
PABUA Overprotection												
Intervention	29.18	7.80	11	24.64	6.92	11	25.70	6.18	10	25.44	9.49	9
Waitlist	27.17	5.22	12	26.50	5.92	12	26.44	5.90	9	27.33	4.79	12
CBCL School Internalizing												
Intervention	14.63	7.73	8	10.63	4.57	8	11.86	3.89	7	9.50	4.18	6
Waitlist	11.17	5.08	6	10.60	7.23	5	15.50	10.75	4	15.20	13.55	5
CBCL Preschool Internalizing												
Intervention	15.67	6.66	3	17.33	6.66	3	15.33	8.34	3	15.00	4.58	3
Waitlist	16.33	8.59	6	14.29	8.50	7	15.60	2.70	5	16.00	9.61	7

2166 *Note.* IMP Total is Interpersonal Mindfulness in Parenting (IMP) Total scale; IMP LFA is IMP Listening with  
2167 Full Attention scale; IMP CC is IMP Compassion for the Child scale; IMP NJAPF is IMP Non-judgmental  
2168 Acceptance of Parental Functioning scale; IMP EAC is IMP Emotional Awareness of the Child scale; IMP EAS  
2169 is IMP Emotional Awareness of the Self scale; IMP ENRP is IMP Emotional Non-reactivity in Parenting scale;  
2170 PSS is Parental Stress Scale; CERQ Adaptive is Adaptive scale, Cognitive Emotion Regulation Questionnaire –  
2171 Short Form (CERQ); CERQ Maladaptive is Maladaptive scale, CERQ; PAAQ Total is Total scale, Parental  
2172 Acceptance and Action Questionnaire; PABUA Overprotection is Overprotection scale, Parental Attitudes,  
2173 Beliefs and Understanding about Anxiety scale; CBCL School Internalizing is Internalizing scale, Child  
2174 Behavior Checklist (CBCL) 6-18 years; CBCL Preschool Internalizing is Internalizing scale, CBCL 3-5 years.  
2175  
2176  
2177

2178 **Table 4**2179 *Cohen's d within- and between-group effect sizes for child and parent outcomes*

Outcomes	Within-group effects <sup>a</sup>					Between-group effects <sup>b</sup>		
	T1-T2	T2-T3	T3-T4	T1-T3	T1-T4	T1	T3	T4
IMP Total	0.84	0.48	0.35	0.96	1.15	0.01	1.02	0.83
IMP LFA	0.64	0.26	0.54	0.67	0.82	0.22	1.04	1.12
IMP CC	0.28	0.25	0.01	0.48	0.48	0.08	0.56	0.05
IMP NJAPF	0.39	0.41	0.28	0.65	0.98	-0.03	1.05	0.98
IMP EAC	0.31	0.50	0.05	0.77	0.78	-0.60	0.42	0.74
IMP EAS	0.86	0.15	-0.15	0.94	0.90	-0.05	0.90	0.51
IMP ENRP	0.60	0.89	0.28	0.67	0.93	0.18	0.58	0.52
PSS	0.57	0.56	0.43	0.89	1.18	0.03	1.10	1.36
CERQ Adaptive	-0.07	0.19	0.21	0.16	0.31	0.19	0.12	0.14
CERQ Maladaptive	0.47	0.09	0.20	0.47	0.55	-0.37	0.60	0.67
PAAQ Total	0.76	0.31	0.07	0.77	0.86	-0.24	1.22	0.85
PABUA Overprotection	0.83	-0.18	0.04	0.43	0.42	-0.31	0.40	0.57
CBCL School Internalizing	0.55	-0.29	0.39	0.26	0.40	-0.51	0.98	1.27
CBCL Preschool Internalizing	-0.27	0.25	0.03	0.03	0.19	0.08	0.04	0.04

2180 *Note.* <sup>a</sup>Within-group, a negative effect size indicates a deterioration in the outcome; <sup>b</sup>Between-group, a negative  
2181 effect size indicates that the effect favours the waitlist control group; T1 = pre-program; T2 = mid-program; T3  
2182 = post-program; T4 = 2-month follow-up; IMP Total is Interpersonal Mindfulness in Parenting (IMP) Total  
2183 scale; IMP LFA is IMP Listening with Full Attention scale; IMP CC is IMP Compassion for the Child scale;  
2184 IMP NJAPF is IMP Non-judgmental Acceptance of Parental Functioning scale; IMP EAC is IMP Emotional  
2185 Awareness of the Child scale; IMP EAS is IMP Emotional Awareness of the Self scale; IMP ENRP is IMP  
2186 Emotional Non-reactivity in Parenting scale; PSS is Parental Stress Scale; CERQ Adaptive is Adaptive scale,  
2187 Cognitive Emotion Regulation Questionnaire – Short Form (CERQ); CERQ Maladaptive is Maladaptive scale,  
2188 CERQ; PAAQ Total is Total scale, Parental Acceptance and Action Questionnaire; PABUA Overprotection is  
2189 Overprotection scale, Parental Attitudes, Beliefs and Understanding about Anxiety scale; CBCL School  
2190 Internalizing is Internalizing scale, Child Behavior Checklist (CBCL) 6-18 years; CBCL Preschool Internalizing  
2191 is Internalizing scale, CBCL 3-5 years.

2192

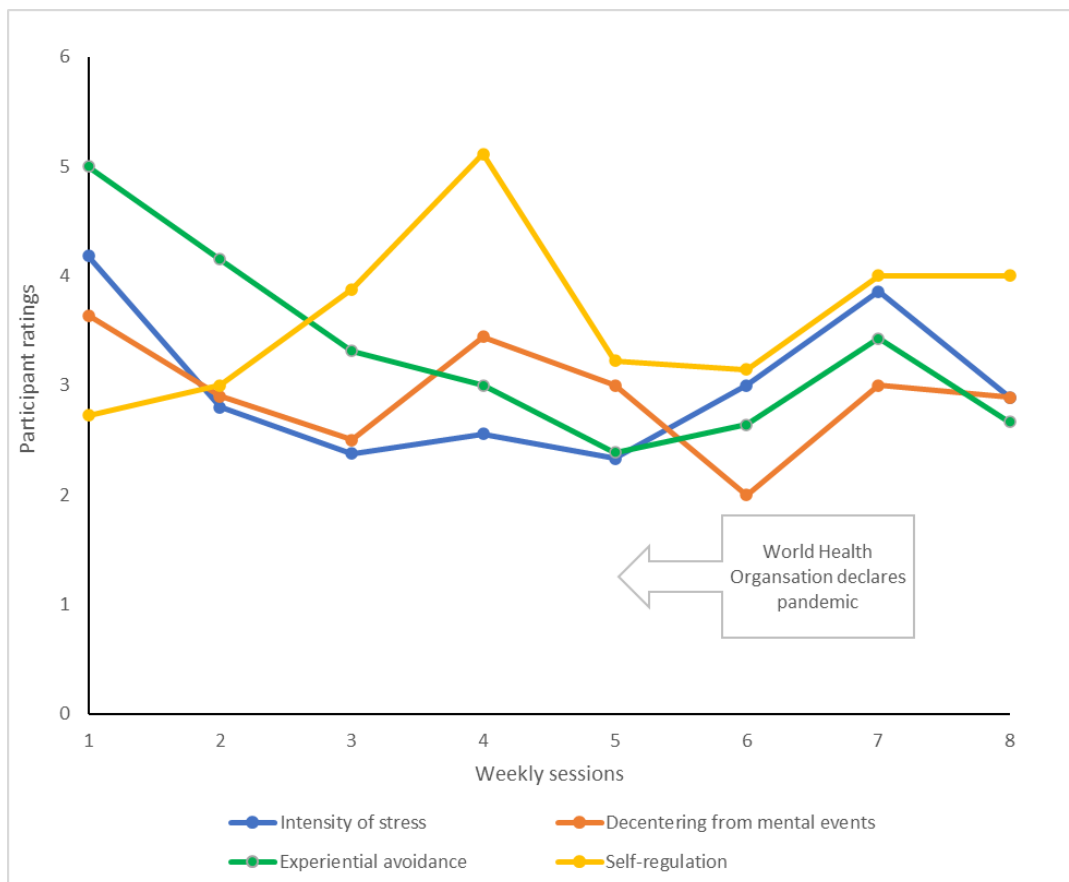
2193 Figure 2 shows the pattern of weekly change in intensity of stress, experiential  
2194 avoidance, self-regulation and decentering from mental events, for specific moments of  
2195 parenting stress experienced by parents. Intensity of stress fell from weeks 1 ( $M = 4.18$ ,  $SD =$   
2196  $1.40$ ) to 8 ( $M = 2.89$ ,  $SD = 1.22$ ) in a strong cubic pattern ( $p < .001$ ,  $\eta_p^2 = .80$ ). In those

2197 stressful situations, experiential avoidance also fell (week 1  $M = 5.00$ ,  $SD = 1.10$ ; week 8  $M =$   
 2198  $2.67$ ,  $SD = 1.02$ ) in a strong quadratic ( $p < .001$ ,  $\eta_p^2 = .78$ ) manner, while self-regulation  
 2199 increased (week 1  $M = 2.73$ ,  $SD = 1.62$ ; week 8  $M = 4.00$ ,  $SD = 1.34$ ) in a strong cubic ( $p =$   
 2200  $.02$ ,  $\eta_p^2 = .41$ ) manner. However, parents' ability to decenter from mental events deteriorated  
 2201 from week 1 ( $M = 3.64$ ,  $SD = 1.36$ ) to week 8 ( $M = 2.89$ ,  $SD = 1.30$ ), with no particular  
 2202 pattern evident in this deterioration (all  $ps > .05$ ). The patterns indicate that over the course of  
 2203 the program, parents experienced improvements in intensity of stress, experiential avoidance  
 2204 and self-regulation, albeit with some deterioration in the week leading up to and immediately  
 2205 after the declaration of the COVID-19 pandemic.

2206

2207 **Figure 2**

2208 *Participant change in intensity of stress and mindfulness, in stressful parenting situations*



2209

2210 *Note.* Lower scores represent less intense stress and experiential avoidance, but poorer  
 2211 self-regulation and decentering.

2212           Based on the reliable change analyses, Table 5 shows the proportions of intervention  
2213 group participants who reliably improved, improved, did not change, deteriorated and reliably  
2214 deteriorated, on each outcome. Post-program, reliable improvements were seen in 20% of  
2215 participants on the Parenting Stress Scale, 50% or more of participants on the IMP Total and  
2216 Emotional Awareness of Self, and PAAQ Total scales, and in 10-40% of participants on the  
2217 remaining seven parent outcomes listed in Table 5. At follow-up, the proportions were  
2218 similar, with reliable improvements in 55% or more of participants on the Parenting Stress  
2219 Scale, IMP Total and Emotional Non-reactivity in Parenting, and PAAQ Total, and in 11-  
2220 33% of participants on the remaining eight outcomes. Reliable deterioration was seen in one  
2221 participant at post-program, for PAAQ Total, and by that same participant and one other at  
2222 follow-up, for PAAQ Total and CERQ Adaptive. For child outcomes post-program, one of  
2223 seven school-aged children (14%) and one of three preschool-aged children (33%) showed  
2224 reliable improvement in internalizing symptoms. At follow-up, two of six school-age children  
2225 (33%) and none of three preschool-aged children showed reliable improvements.  
2226

2227 **Table 5**

2228 *Reliability of change on each outcome in intervention group participants, from pre- to post-program, and pre-program to follow-up*

Outcomes	Reliable improvement <sup>a</sup>				Improvement <sup>b</sup>				No change <sup>c</sup>				Deterioration <sup>d</sup>				Reliable deterioration <sup>e</sup>			
	T1-T3		T1-T4		T1-T3		T1-T4		T1-T3		T1-T4		T1-T3		T1-T4		T1-T3		T1-T4	
	n/n <sup>f</sup>	%	n/n	%	n/n	%	n/n	%	n/n	%	n/n	%	n/n	%	n/n	%	n/n	%	n/n	%
IMP Total	7/10	70	6/9	67	3/10	30	3/9	33	0/10	0	0/9	0	0/10	0	0/9	0	0/10	0	0/9	0
IMP LFA	4/10	40	3/9	33	3/10	30	6/9	67	2/10	20	0/9	0	1/10	10	0/9	0	0/10	0	0/9	0
IMP CC	2/10	20	2/9	22	3/10	30	4/9	44	3/10	30	1/9	11	2/10	20	2/9	22	0/10	0	0/9	0
IMP NJAPF	3/10	30	2/9	22	5/10	50	6/9	67	1/10	10	1/9	11	1/10	10	0/9	0	0/10	0	0/9	0
IMP EAC	4/10	40	1/9	11	3/10	30	4/9	44	2/10	20	4/9	44	1/10	10	0/9	0	0/10	0	0/9	0
IMP EAS	5/10	50	2/9	22	4/10	40	5/9	56	1/10	10	2/9	22	0/10	0	0/9	0	0/10	0	0/9	0
IMP ENRP	4/10	40	5/9	56	4/10	40	1/9	11	1/10	10	3/9	33	1/10	10	0/9	0	0/10	0	0/9	0
PSS	2/10	20	5/9	56	7/10	70	4/9	44	0/10	0	0/9	0	1/10	10	0/9	0	0/10	0	0/9	0
CERQ Adaptive	1/10	10	3/9	33	4/10	40	2/9	22	1/10	10	2/9	22	4/10	40	1/9	11	0/10	0	1/9	11
CERQ Maladaptive	2/10	20	2/9	22	4/10	40	3/9	33	1/10	10	2/9	22	3/10	30	2/9	22	0/10	0	0/9	0
PAAQ Total	8/10	80	7/9	78	1/10	10	1/9	11	0/10	0	0/9	0	0/10	0	0/9	0	1/10	10	1/9	0
PABUA Overprotection	2/10	20	1/9	11	4/10	40	5/9	56	0/10	0	1/9	11	4/10	40	2/9	22	0/10	0	0/9	0
CBCL School Internalizing	1/7	14	2/6	33	4/7	57	1/6	17	1/7	14	2/6	33	1/7	14	1/6	17	0/7	0	0/6	0
CBCL Preschool Internalizing	1/3	33	0/3	0	0/3	0	1/3	33	0/3	0	1/3	33	2/3	67	1/3	33	0/3	0	0/3	0

2229 *Note.* <sup>a</sup>Standardised difference score ( $\Delta$ ) shows improvement  $\geq 1.96$ ; <sup>b</sup> $\Delta$  shows improvement  $>0$  but  $<1.96$ ; <sup>c</sup> $\Delta = 0$ ; <sup>d</sup> $\Delta$  shows deterioration  $>0$  but  $<1.96$ ; <sup>e</sup> $\Delta$  shows deterioration  $\geq 1.96$ ; <sup>f</sup>n/n is the  
2230 number of participants with change at each level, out of the number of participants for whom data was available; IMP Total is Interpersonal Mindfulness in Parenting (IMP) Total scale; IMP LFA is  
2231 IMP Listening with Full Attention scale; IMP CC is IMP Compassion for the Child scale; IMP NJAPF is IMP Non-judgmental Acceptance of Parental Functioning scale; IMP EAC is IMP  
2232 Emotional Awareness of the Child scale; IMP EAS is IMP Emotional Awareness of the Self scale; IMP ENRP is IMP Emotional Non-reactivity in Parenting scale; PSS is Parental Stress Scale;  
2233 CERQ Adaptive is Adaptive scale, Cognitive Emotion Regulation Questionnaire – Short Form (CERQ); CERQ Maladaptive is Maladaptive scale, CERQ; PAAQ Total is Total scale, Parental  
2234 Acceptance and Action Questionnaire; PABUA Overprotection is Overprotection scale, Parental Attitudes, Beliefs and Understanding about Anxiety scale; CBCL School Internalizing is  
2235 Internalizing scale, Child Behavior Checklist (CBCL) 6-18 years; CBCL Preschool Internalizing is Internalizing scale, CBCL 3-5 years.

2236 **Expansion**

2237 Ten of the 11 intervention group parents provided post-program feedback regarding  
 2238 whether and how their parenting changed after the program, including in relation to perceived  
 2239 child anxiety. Six themes were identified in this feedback: present-moment awareness,  
 2240 intensity of emotional experience, acceptance, self-regulation, empathy, and self-compassion.  
 2241 Table 6 describes these themes and gives examples illustrating each one.

2242

2243 **Table 6**

2244 *Themes identified in parent feedback regarding the impact of the mindful parenting program (N = 10)*

Theme (n) <sup>a</sup>	Description of theme	Excerpt of parent feedback
Present-moment awareness (5)	Describes parents' increased awareness and understanding of their current experience and how this impacts their parenting	<i>P2: It has given me a chance to assess how I am feeling which [drives] my decisions</i> <i>P6: Allows me to understand my reaction to it [my child's anxiety]</i>
Intensity of emotional experience (5)	Captures parents' reports of less intense emotional experiences in parenting, and their increased understanding of these experiences	<i>P1: Less angry</i> <i>P7: You react with much less anxiety yourself</i> <i>P11: I see his anxiety as a normal but not a stressful issue</i>
Acceptance (7)	Parents reported becoming more tolerant and accepting of difficult emotions and situations	<i>P8: They're the same emotions, but I'm trying to sit with them before reacting now</i> <i>P10: Felt not so overwhelmed about having to problem solve it [my child's anxiety]/her</i>
Self-regulation (6)	Describes parents' enhanced ability to consciously respond, rather than automatically react, to their child	<i>P3: Being able to take time and think before I respond to her reactions</i> <i>P9: More patience to help her work through anxiety, opens up new options</i>
Empathy (8)	Parents described having a broader perspective of their child, being more understanding of them and more able to empathise with them	<i>P6: Allowed me to reconnect with the bigger picture of my child's life, beyond the one issue</i> <i>P8: I've taken more time to really appreciate her</i> <i>P10: To become more empathetic about my child's feelings and understanding ... while at times hard to understand, give her the space and time to explain them</i>
Self-compassion (2)	Parents reported feeling less isolated in dealing with their child's difficulties	<i>P7: I found that ... we are not alone in the anxiety struggle</i> <i>P11: I'm less hard on myself when things don't go right</i>

2245 *Note.* <sup>a</sup>number of parents whose comments identified the theme

## Discussion

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This study investigated the feasibility of a mindful parenting program for parents concerned about their child’s internalizing problems. We explored demand for the program success by measuring recruitment, attendance, completion and attrition rates, and acceptability of the program by obtaining feedback on usefulness. To explore ways that mindful parenting might reduce child internalizing, we sought estimates of likely effect sizes in a future definitive trial of the program, for changes in child internalizing problems, mindful parenting, parenting stress, parental experiential avoidance, cognitive emotion regulation and beliefs about child anxiety. We also used qualitative feedback from parents to explore whether and how mindful parenting might help them cope with child internalizing problems, particularly anxiety.

As hypothesized, there is demand for the program from parents concerned about their child’s internalizing symptoms. The recruitment rates were 2.1% (by Facebook advertisement) and 3.4% (by email). While low, these rates compare favourably to the mean rate of 7% reported in a review of studies using Facebook to recruit for health research (Whitaker et al., 2017). The great majority of the reviewed studies involved only online surveys, whereas this study involved attending a 16-hour program in addition to the collection of data at four points over a four-month period. The attendance and completion rates in this study were both 75%. This rate is acceptable compared to rates reported by other mindful parenting intervention studies, for example, 50% attended at least 4 of 8 sessions in Bögels et al. (2008), 74% attended at least 4 of 8 sessions in Mann et al. (2016), and 84% completed at least 6 of 8 sessions in Racey et al. (2017). While the completion rate was lower than in Racey et al., this was at least partly attributable to the declaration of the COVID-19 pandemic, which prevented two parents (16.7% of the group) from attending after the fifth session. Acceptability is indicated by parent-reported usefulness of the program. Despite

2271 most parents believing the pandemic negatively impacted their ability to benefit from the  
2272 program, all still found the program to be of lasting value and would recommend it to others,  
2273 suggesting that a mindful parenting program can be helpful even at times of heightened  
2274 general stress.

2275           Concerning preliminary effects, compared to waitlist, the intervention group reported  
2276 large reductions in internalizing problems for their school-aged children (6-18 years).  
2277 Existing studies have shown reduced internalizing problems in groups of children with  
2278 externalizing problems or mixed diagnoses (Haydicky et al., 2015), so the present results  
2279 suggest these reductions also occur for children with primary internalizing concerns.  
2280 However, despite the preliminary evidence of treatment success at the group level, the low  
2281 rates of reliable improvement at the individual level indicate that a substantial proportion of  
2282 children did not benefit from their parents doing the program. This is consistent with findings  
2283 from other studies, which typically show quite low rates of improvement with reliable change  
2284 analyses, even for evidence-based child treatments (Smith & Jensen-Doss, 2017). For  
2285 preschool-aged (3-5 years) children, the symptom reductions were negligible. Due to the  
2286 dearth of research on the differential impacts of mindful parenting for children of particular  
2287 developmental stages, it is unclear why the program appeared to benefit only the older group.  
2288 One study of developmentally delayed preschool children found less internalizing problems  
2289 after their parents attended a MBSR program (McGregor et al., 2020). The discrepancy  
2290 between that study and the present one could be due to low baseline levels of internalizing  
2291 problems in the present sample of preschool children, particularly compared to the higher  
2292 rates for developmentally delayed children (Van Steensel et al., 2011), such that there was  
2293 limited scope for improvement in the present sample. Alternatively, since none of the  
2294 preschool children had reliably reduced internalizing symptoms at follow-up, it is possible  
2295 that the program did not meet the needs of parents with younger children. Older children are



2296 generally more likely to be classified as improved under reliable change analyses, so more  
2297 targeted programs may be needed for younger children (Smith & Jensen-Doss, 2017),  
2298 including in mindful parenting programs.

2299         There were moderate to large improvements in all facets of mindful parenting, and  
2300 overall mindful parenting reliably improved in 70% of parents. This suggests the program  
2301 was successful in its aim to develop parents' ability to broaden their attentional focus and  
2302 acceptance regarding their child. There were also moderate to large reductions in parenting  
2303 stress, parental experiential avoidance, maladaptive cognitive emotion regulation and  
2304 unhelpful beliefs regarding child anxiety, and a small increase in adaptive cognitive emotion  
2305 regulation. These results provide tentative evidence that mindful parenting is at least as useful  
2306 for parents concerned about child internalizing, as for those managing child externalizing,  
2307 since the latter group of parents have typically reported only small to moderate reductions in  
2308 parenting stress, psychopathology and negative parenting style (Bögels et al., 2014). The  
2309 results also suggest that improved parental emotion regulation may be one way in which  
2310 mindful parenting can reduce child internalizing symptoms. By building parents' ability to  
2311 tolerate difficult emotions, the program may help parents to model more helpful, active  
2312 coping strategies for their child, instead of the avoidant coping behaviors that tend to  
2313 maintain internalizing symptoms (Tiwari et al., 2008). Parental modelling of strategies  
2314 predicts the child's use of strategies and the child's internalizing symptoms (Gunzenhauser et  
2315 al., 2014; Wald et al., 2018).

2316         This study went beyond showing general trait improvements. The weekly coping data  
2317 showed that, even with pandemic-related uncertainty occurring throughout the program,  
2318 parents felt less intensely stressed and were less experientially avoidant and more self-  
2319 regulated, in specific, difficult parenting moments. The program therefore appears to help  
2320 parents respond to their children in a more helpful manner, even at times of heightened stress

2321 when this might otherwise have been too difficult. This is particularly important in relation to  
2322 parents of children with internalizing problems, since they are more likely to interpret  
2323 situations in a threatening manner (Creswell et al., 2005) and to intervene in difficult  
2324 situations, for example by physically or emotionally removing themselves or their child from  
2325 the situation, which can contribute to or maintain child internalizing problems (McLeod et al.,  
2326 2007; Tiwari et al., 2008). This could be explained by the program successfully broadening  
2327 parents' attentional focus and acceptance regarding their child, so they become more  
2328 receptive to experience (Bishop et al., 2004). This would allow for less threatening  
2329 evaluations of particular situations, and therefore lowered stress appraisals (Weinstein et al.,  
2330 2009) and less need for avoidant, overprotective or other unhelpful parenting behavior  
2331 (Tiwari et al., 2008).

2332         Finally, based on the qualitative feedback, it appears likely that a mindful parenting  
2333 program would be successful with parents of children with primary internalizing concerns.  
2334 Parent feedback regarding how the program helped them to cope with their child's  
2335 internalizing symptoms raised six themes that overlapped somewhat with the six facets of the  
2336 IMP (de Bruin et al., 2014). The two most commonly identified themes were *acceptance* and  
2337 *empathy*, which was similar to the acceptance and emotional awareness that we expected.  
2338 Acceptance, and the theme *self-compassion*, together reflect the IMP facet Non-judgmental  
2339 Acceptance of Parental Functioning (NJAPF), which captures a parent's ability to be  
2340 accepting and compassionate regarding themselves as a parent. The identification of the themes  
2341 acceptance and self-compassion is consistent with evidence from earlier studies, which have  
2342 found NJAPF to be the aspect of mindful parenting most predictive of child internalizing  
2343 problems (Burgdorf & Szabó, 2021). The theme *empathy* encompasses the Emotional  
2344 Awareness of the Child (EAC) and Compassion for the Child facets of the IMP. After  
2345 NJAPF, EAC is the only other facet of mindful parenting that has been found to predict child

2346 internalizing problems (Burgdorf & Szabó, 2021). Lack of awareness regarding a child's  
2347 anxiety could result in a parent failing to help the child manage that anxiety or managing it  
2348 unhelpfully (Hurrell et al., 2017). Conversely, more aware or empathic parents can help  
2349 reduce child anxiety, for example by providing an appropriate level of encouragement for  
2350 their child to approach anxiety-inducing situations, allowing gradual exposures to such  
2351 situations (Settipani & Kendall, 2017). Greater empathy may also reduce child internalizing  
2352 by increasing the child's perception of parental warmth or support (Flory, 2004; Stern et al.,  
2353 2015), which is longitudinally associated with reductions in child internalizing problems  
2354 (Pinquart, 2017).

2355         Parent feedback also raised themes of *present-moment awareness*, *intensity of*  
2356 *emotional experience* (including less intense stress), and *self-regulation*. The intensity of  
2357 emotional experience and self-regulation themes were similar to the Emotional Awareness of  
2358 Self and Emotional Non-reactivity in Parenting IMP facets. Although some studies have  
2359 found that parenting stress does not predict child internalizing (Burgdorf et al., 2019;  
2360 Emerson et al., 2019a), there may be an indirect link, through self-regulation. Stress makes it  
2361 more difficult for parents to use appropriate strategies to regulate their own emotional state  
2362 and behaviors (Crandall et al., 2015; Raio et al., 2013). As self-regulation influences how  
2363 parents respond to a child's negative emotions, and the development of a child's own  
2364 regulatory skills (Morris et al., 2017), it plays a crucial role in the child's well-being,  
2365 including their level of anxiety (Morris et al., 2017; Wald et al., 2018). Accordingly, less  
2366 stressed parents can better self-regulate, thus lowering their child's risk of anxiety. *Present-*  
2367 *moment awareness* was similar to the IMP Listening with Full Attention facet (LFA),  
2368 although unlike LFA, it related to the parents' attention for their own, rather than their  
2369 child's, present experiences. A heightened awareness of their own experience and how it  
2370 affects their parenting may also improve parental self-regulation, by allowing more conscious

2371 responding to the child, for example with more positive and less negative behaviors, which  
2372 both predict lower child internalizing problems over time (Pinquart, 2017). Overall, the  
2373 qualitatively-identified themes support the quantitative data in suggesting that mindful  
2374 parenting may help reduce child internalizing symptoms by improving parents' ability to  
2375 regulate themselves and by improving their emotional connection with their child.

## 2376 **Limitations and Future Research**

2377         There were several limitations related to assessment, in this study. The post-program  
2378 internal consistencies and reliabilities for the CERQ Maladaptive and CBCL Internalizing  
2379 (preschool) scales were relatively low. This could have impacted the accuracy of the effects  
2380 found for these two outcomes. Common method bias is also likely to have affected the effect  
2381 estimates. For example, using parents as the sole respondents may have inflated effects due to  
2382 the tendency to respond in a positive way or social desirability (Podsakoff et al., 2012).  
2383 Parents invested significant time in the 8-week program, which may have led them to report  
2384 greater improvements in the measured outcomes than actually occurred. Future studies could  
2385 reduce the impact of this bias by including different respondents (Podsakoff et al., 2012),  
2386 such as partners or children of participating parents, for example regarding the child's  
2387 internalizing symptoms and their perceptions of any change in the participating parent. The  
2388 qualitative data was collected from parents online, using a small number of open-ended  
2389 questions. Whilst the use of online questionnaires for collecting qualitative data is convenient  
2390 for parents and can provide rich data (Braun et al., 2020), it is also possible that parents may  
2391 have given less thought to their answers or provided less detail in this online format, than if  
2392 they were interviewed by a researcher.

2393         There were also limitations related to the sample. As we used a community-recruited  
2394 sample, it is suggested that the study be replicated in a clinical sample, for example with  
2395 parents of children with a diagnosed internalizing disorder. It is also important to note that the

2396 proportion of fathers participating in this study was very low (8%), with only 1 father  
2397 participating in each group. Mothers report higher levels of mindful parenting than fathers  
2398 (Moreira & Canavarro, 2015), and there is no evidence as to the structure of mindful  
2399 parenting in fathers (Burgdorf & Szabó, 2021). The present results may therefore not be  
2400 indicative of the outcomes for fathers, either due to differences between mothers and fathers  
2401 in baseline levels, or in the structure, of mindful parenting. Similarly, the sample was  
2402 homogenous in that it consisted largely of parents with a tertiary education, who identified  
2403 culturally as “Australian”. Replication of the study in different population groups is  
2404 necessary, as parental engagement with parenting programs can be affected by factors  
2405 including education, socio-economic status and cultural values (Axford et al., 2012).  
2406 Accordingly, although promising, the improvements in parent and child outcomes in this  
2407 small feasibility sample must be regarded as preliminary, until replicated in a definitive trial  
2408 of the program for this population of parents.

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## **CHAPTER SIX. General Discussion**

2413

2414 This Chapter summarizes the findings of the research conducted for this thesis and discusses  
2415 their theoretical and clinical implications. Strengths and limitations of the thesis are noted and  
2416 avenues for further research suggested.

2417

## Abstract

2418  
2419 This thesis sought to contribute to the understanding of the impact of mindful parenting on  
2420 parenting stress and child psychological difficulties and how mindful parenting may  
2421 positively impact upon children. An initial literature review highlighted several gaps in the  
2422 research, including the mixed results of mindful parenting intervention studies, the limited  
2423 existing research regarding mindful parenting programs (MPPs) for families of children with  
2424 primary internalizing problems, and the need for an English-language validation of the  
2425 Interpersonal Mindfulness in Parenting scale (IMP). Given the mixed intervention results, a  
2426 systematic review and meta-analysis was conducted, which suggested that MPPs are effective  
2427 at reducing parenting stress and may improve child psychological outcomes. The analysis  
2428 also indicated that reductions in parenting stress predict reductions in child externalizing and  
2429 cognitive problems, but not internalizing problems. Confirmatory factor analyses indicated  
2430 that both 5- and 6-factor models of mindful parenting could be validly measured using the  
2431 IMP, in both mothers of children and infants. Regression analyses found that mindful  
2432 parenting, in particular the facet Non-judgmental Acceptance of Parental Functioning,  
2433 predicted child internalizing problems and parental experiential avoidance, cognitive emotion  
2434 regulation and unhelpful parent beliefs and behaviors regarding child anxiety. A feasibility  
2435 study indicated that a MPP might reduce child internalizing problems and improve these  
2436 parent variables. The theoretical and clinical implications of these results are discussed,  
2437 including the possibility that MPPs could be used as an adjunct to cognitive-behavioral  
2438 therapy for child internalizing problems. Thesis strengths and weaknesses are also outlined,  
2439 and suggestions made regarding avenues for further research in this area.

2440 **Aims of the Thesis**

2441           The goal of this thesis was to further our understanding of whether mindful parenting  
2442 programs (MPPs) reduce parenting stress and child psychological problems, in particular  
2443 child internalizing problems, and the ways in which these programs might deliver benefits to  
2444 children. To achieve this goal, there were several specific aims. The first was to  
2445 systematically evaluate the existing evidence of the effectiveness of MPPs for reducing  
2446 parenting stress and child psychological problems and investigate potential moderators of  
2447 those outcomes (Chapter 2). Second, this thesis sought to establish whether the model of  
2448 mindful parenting hypothesized by Duncan and colleagues (Duncan et al., 2009) accurately  
2449 reflects that construct in English-language parents, by examining the factor structure of the  
2450 Interpersonal Mindfulness in Parenting scale (IMP) in that population (Chapter 3). The third  
2451 aim of this thesis was to examine whether mindful parenting, or particular facets of mindful  
2452 parenting, would predict child internalizing problems and parenting variables related to child  
2453 internalizing problems, specifically parental experiential avoidance, cognitive emotion  
2454 regulation and beliefs and behaviors relating to child anxiety (Chapter 4). The final aim was  
2455 to conduct a randomized controlled pilot study to investigate the feasibility of a MPP for  
2456 parents concerned about their child’s internalizing problems, including its acceptability to  
2457 those parents and its potential efficacy in reducing parenting stress and child internalizing  
2458 symptoms, and improving parent factors that might contribute to or maintain child  
2459 internalizing (Chapter 5).

2460 **Summary of Literature Review**

2461           Chapter 1 summarized the literature relating to mindful parenting and its relationship  
2462 to parenting stress and the psychological well-being of children. The literature review showed  
2463 that correlational studies consistently link more mindful parenting with lower levels of  
2464 parenting stress and better child psychological outcomes. However, the results of intervention



2465 studies were less consistent. Most of these studies found lowered parenting stress after  
2466 parents attended a MPP, but some found no improvements. The position was similar with  
2467 respect to child outcomes, with most but not all studies reporting improvements in child  
2468 outcomes such as externalizing and internalizing problems. Although very few studies  
2469 measuring child outcomes were conducted with families of children without a mental health  
2470 diagnosis, some such studies did report improvements in child symptoms. Given that  
2471 improvements in parent and child outcomes were found for both clinical and non-clinical  
2472 families, the clinical status of children alone did not appear to explain why some parents and  
2473 children improved and others did not. The review also showed that the majority of  
2474 intervention studies did not randomize participants to an intervention or control group, and  
2475 many did not explicitly measure mindful parenting. Overall, this limited the strength of the  
2476 evidence that improvements in mindful parenting were responsible for any reported  
2477 improvements in parent or child outcomes.

2478         The review also showed that the body of research on mindful parenting interventions  
2479 has not addressed the question of whether MPPs might have different impacts based on the  
2480 nature of a child's mental health difficulty, or their age or developmental stage. Most  
2481 intervention studies have been conducted with groups of families where all or most of the  
2482 children had primary externalizing diagnoses. In contrast, in families of children with primary  
2483 internalizing problems, there were no studies investigating whether MPPs reduce parenting  
2484 stress and only one study investigating the reduction of internalizing symptoms. In relation to  
2485 age, some interventions have been targeted for families with children at a particular  
2486 developmental stage, such as infants or adolescents. However, none of the studies conducted  
2487 to date with children of a broader age range have separately assessed the impacts of MPPs for  
2488 the younger and older children. Lastly, the review identified that the model of mindful  
2489 parenting proposed by Duncan and colleagues (Duncan et al., 2009) had not been empirically

2490 tested in an English-language population, despite several studies of translated versions of the  
2491 IMP failing to support that proposed model (for example, de Bruin et al., 2014).

## 2492 **Summary of Systematic Review and Meta-analysis**

2493         Given that the literature review identified mixed results for parent and child outcomes  
2494 after mindful parenting interventions, and no existing systematic review of these intervention  
2495 studies, a systematic review and meta-analysis was conducted as part of this thesis. The  
2496 systematic review and meta-analysis in Chapter 2 identified 25 independent, quantitative  
2497 studies of MPPs. Eighteen of those studies used a single-group design, six were randomized  
2498 controlled trials (RCTs) and one used a non-randomized convenience control group. In most  
2499 studies ( $n = 20$ ), participating families were referred for clinical assistance due to their child's  
2500 mental health diagnoses. Sixteen studies provided the MPP to parents only (including one  
2501 mother/infant group), and nine studies provided the MPP to parents and also provided  
2502 separate mindfulness training to children of the participating parents. All MPPs in the studies  
2503 reviewed were delivered to parents in a group format, over a period of 6 to 12 weeks. The  
2504 total number of hours of training ranged from 9 to 27 hours.

2505         Meta-analysis indicated that MPPs are responsible for reduced parenting stress.  
2506 Reductions tend to be small immediately after the program, but then increase to moderate two  
2507 months later. The parenting stress outcome was not moderated by child clinical status  
2508 (clinical versus non-clinical), child age (child under 12 years versus adolescent 12 years or  
2509 over) or the length of the mindfulness program. There were not enough studies for a  
2510 moderator analysis regarding parent clinical status. Reductions in parenting stress were larger  
2511 in studies where the program was provided to the parent only, than to parent and child.  
2512 However, as almost all studies providing mindfulness training to both parent and child  
2513 involved children with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), this result may be

2514 related to the nature of the child’s difficulties rather than who participated in the mindfulness  
2515 training.

2516           It remains unclear whether MPPs result in improved child outcomes, as there were  
2517 insufficient studies to use meta-analysis to calculate between-group effects. However, MPPs  
2518 were associated with small pre- to post-program within-group improvements in child  
2519 outcomes, which were maintained at 2-month follow-up. Child outcomes were not moderated  
2520 by child age (child versus adolescent), intervention participants (parent-only versus parent  
2521 and child), or length of the mindfulness program. There were insufficient studies to check  
2522 whether parent or child clinical status moderated child outcomes. Meta-regression indicated  
2523 that reductions in parenting stress predicted reductions in child externalizing and cognitive  
2524 problems, but not reductions in child internalizing problems. Despite the relatively small size  
2525 of most studies, publication bias was deemed trivial. Overall, though, the quality of studies  
2526 was problematic, since most did not use a randomized, controlled design.

### 2527 **Summary of Confirmatory Factor Analyses**

2528           Despite the principal research tool for measuring mindful parenting being developed  
2529 in an English-language population, the literature review showed that no validation of the IMP  
2530 in an English-language parent group had been published. Chapter 3 therefore presented  
2531 confirmatory factor analyses (CFA) of the IMP in English-language groups of mothers of  
2532 children aged 3-18 years and mothers of infants aged 0-2 years. CFA was used rather than  
2533 exploratory factor analysis, as exploratory analyses had already resulted in similar models of  
2534 mindful parenting being identified in two different Western populations (de Bruin et al.,  
2535 2014; Moreira & Canavarro, 2017). The fit of three models of mindful parenting was  
2536 examined: the model hypothesized by Duncan et al. (2009), and the empirically obtained  
2537 models of de Bruin et al. (2014) and Moreira and Canavarro (2017).

2538           The CFA showed the Duncan et al. (2009) model to be a poor fit in English-speaking  
2539 mothers of children and infants. However, based on the fit indices examined, both the de  
2540 Bruin et al. (2014) and Moreira and Canavarro (2017) models were an adequate to good fit in  
2541 both groups, with the de Bruin et al. model requiring fewer modifications to achieve good fit.  
2542 In the model proposed by Duncan et al., items regarding non-judgment, compassion and  
2543 emotional awareness were grouped together, regardless of whether they related to the parent  
2544 or child. However, in the CFA conducted for this thesis, these items loaded onto separate  
2545 parent- and child-focused facets, as was the case in several Western and Asian studies using  
2546 translated versions of the IMP. The replication of this result in an English-language  
2547 population suggests that the separation of parent- and child-focused items is integral to the  
2548 construct of mindful parenting, and does not merely result from translation of the IMP or  
2549 cultural differences in parenting.

#### 2550 **Summary of Regression Analyses**

2551           As the meta-analysis in Chapter 2 found that reductions in parenting stress did not  
2552 predict reductions in child internalizing problems, this thesis explored alternative ways in  
2553 which child internalizing might be impacted by mindful parenting. The study presented in  
2554 Chapter 4 used regression analyses to assess which facets of mindful parenting uniquely  
2555 predict child internalizing problems and several parent variables believed to contribute to or  
2556 maintain child internalizing problems: parental experiential avoidance, cognitive emotion  
2557 regulation, and unhelpful beliefs and behaviors relating to child anxiety. To determine  
2558 whether those facets differed for parents depending on child age, the analyses for the parent  
2559 variables were conducted separately for mothers of children and infants. The participants  
2560 were 170 mothers of children aged 3-18 years and 75 mothers of infants aged 0-2 years, who  
2561 were recruited from the community to complete measures of child internalizing and related  
2562 parent variables.

2563 Child (2-18 years) internalizing problems were uniquely predicted by the Non-  
2564 judgmental Acceptance of Parental Functioning (NJAPF) and Emotional Awareness of the  
2565 Child (EAC) facets of mindful parenting, over and above child age and maternal internalizing  
2566 symptoms. In relation to parent outcomes, there were some similarities in the facets of  
2567 mindful parenting that emerged as unique predictors for the two groups of mothers. For  
2568 mothers of children and infants, NJAPF was the facet that most strongly predicted parental  
2569 experiential avoidance and maladaptive cognitive emotion regulation, and Emotional  
2570 Awareness of Self (EAS) was the facet that most strongly predicted adaptive cognitive  
2571 emotion regulation. There were also differences between the two groups. Compassion for the  
2572 Child (CC) was another unique predictor of parental experiential avoidance for mothers of  
2573 children, whereas both EAS and Emotional Non-reactivity in Parenting (ENRP) were  
2574 predictors for mothers of infants. Both EAC and ENRP were unique predictors of  
2575 maladaptive cognitive emotion regulation for mothers of children, but this outcome was  
2576 instead predicted by CC in mothers of infants. Overall, NJAPF emerged as the aspect of  
2577 mindful parenting that was most important as a unique predictor of parental experiential  
2578 avoidance, cognitive emotion regulation and unhelpful beliefs and behaviors regarding child  
2579 anxiety. As these parent factors are predicted by mindful parenting and are thought to  
2580 contribute to or maintain child internalizing problems, they may explain the relationship  
2581 between mindful parenting and child internalizing problems.

### 2582 **Summary of Randomized Controlled Pilot Study**

2583 Chapter 4 established that mindful parenting predicts child internalizing problems and  
2584 several parent variables that may contribute to or maintain child internalizing problems. The  
2585 feasibility study presented in Chapter 5 was designed to build on those findings. The study  
2586 was a randomized controlled pilot trial comparing an 8-week MPP to a waitlist control. It  
2587 assessed four domains of feasibility: (1) demand for a MPP amongst parents concerned about

2588 their child's internalizing symptoms; (2) program acceptability; (3) potential efficacy of the  
2589 program for improving parenting stress, child internalizing symptoms, and parent variables  
2590 that contribute to or maintain child internalizing problems; and (4) the possibility of the  
2591 program being successful if made available to that population of parents. Twenty-five parents  
2592 of children aged 3 to 18 years, with self-reported concerns regarding their child's  
2593 internalizing symptoms, were recruited from the community to participate. All parents  
2594 completed measures of mindful parenting, parenting stress, child internalizing problems,  
2595 parental experiential avoidance, cognitive emotion regulation and parent beliefs about child  
2596 anxiety. These measures were completed at four time points: pre-, mid-, and post-program,  
2597 and two months following the program. Intervention group parents also completed weekly in-  
2598 session reports about their coping with specific, stressful parenting moments, and qualitative  
2599 feedback on whether and how the program had assisted them in coping with their child's  
2600 internalizing symptoms.

2601         Results indicated the MPP was feasible for parents with concerns about their child's  
2602 internalizing problems. Recruitment, attendance and completion rates suggested there was  
2603 demand for the program. For example, completion rates were in line with those seen in MPPs  
2604 run for other groups of parents. Program acceptability was established through parent reports  
2605 that the program had been useful and valuable to them and that they would recommend it to  
2606 others. Parent reports at post-program and two-month follow-up provided preliminary  
2607 evidence for the efficacy of the program, with the intervention group improving by a  
2608 moderate to large amount compared to waitlist, for school-aged child internalizing problems  
2609 and most parent outcomes. The weekly in-session reports from intervention group parents  
2610 also showed that parents improved in their ability to cope with stressful parenting situations,  
2611 as they were occurring. Finally, qualitative feedback suggested that a MPP would likely be  
2612 successful for parents with concerns regarding their child's internalizing problems, as these

2613 parents confirmed that the program had helped them with their parenting; in particular, by  
2614 strengthening their ability to be accepting and empathic with their child. Overall, the pilot  
2615 trial indicated that MPPs could help parents reduce the level of stress that they encounter in  
2616 their parenting, while also improving on some of the parent factors that tend to contribute to  
2617 or maintain child internalizing problems. This may in turn reduce the level of internalizing  
2618 symptoms that their child experiences.

### 2619 **Theoretical Implications**

2620         The results of the studies conducted for this thesis have some implications for current  
2621 theoretical perspectives on mindful parenting. First, the 5-dimension model of mindful  
2622 parenting developed by Duncan and colleagues (Duncan et al., 2009) was found to be a poor  
2623 fit to the data for English-language mothers. Instead, consistent with several earlier analyses  
2624 using translated versions of the IMP (for example, Moreira & Canavarro, 2017), both 5- and  
2625 6-facet models in which parent- and child- focused items relating to emotional awareness,  
2626 non-judgment and compassion loaded on to distinct factors, were found to fit well. Given that  
2627 the IMP was originally developed in English, and the Duncan et al. model of mindful  
2628 parenting did not involve this separation of parent- and child-focused items, it could have  
2629 been argued that the different structure resulted from the translation process or cultural  
2630 differences. However, as the same separation has now been found in English-language  
2631 mothers, it appears that the construct of mindful parenting is best represented by a model that  
2632 distinguishes between parent- and child-focused emotional awareness, non-judgment and  
2633 compassion. While a parent's capacity in these areas regarding themselves is related to their  
2634 capacity regarding their child (Havighurst et al., 2010; Lathren et al., 2020), some parents  
2635 have more difficulty with one or the other. For example, some will find it easier to act kindly  
2636 or non-judgmentally towards a child but may struggle to do so towards themselves (Bögels &  
2637 Restifo, 2013). A model of mindful parenting should recognise this self/other divergence.

2638           The empirical validation of a model of mindful parenting in English-language  
2639 mothers enabled the relationships between the specific facets of mindful parenting, child  
2640 internalizing problems and related parent variables to be explored. Of these facets, NJAPF  
2641 was the strongest unique predictor of child internalizing and related parent variables (Chapter  
2642 4) and had a large improvement after the MPP (Chapter 5). The NJAPF facet is comprised of  
2643 items relating to a parent’s tendency to be critical, harsh and blaming towards themselves. It  
2644 therefore appears that the aspect of mindful parenting that may be most relevant in improving  
2645 child internalizing symptoms is a parent’s ability to be accepting and compassionate towards  
2646 themselves. It is interesting that it is the more inward-facing, intrapersonal aspects of non-  
2647 judgment or self-compassion that are most important regarding child internalizing  
2648 difficulties, given that mindful parenting has been argued to improve child outcomes by  
2649 improving parent interactions with children (Duncan et al., 2009; Parent et al., 2016).  
2650 However, this finding aligns with research showing that greater self-compassion is associated  
2651 with reduced psychological distress through improved emotion regulation, and that building  
2652 self-compassion may decrease distress (Diedrich et al., 2017; Inwood & Ferrari, 2018; Kirby  
2653 et al., 2017). Parents who consistently take an accepting, compassionate stance towards  
2654 themselves will be more likely to have children who do so, and who are therefore less likely  
2655 to experience anxiety or distress themselves (Marsh et al., 2018; Morris et al., 2017).

2656           Finally, while the findings of this thesis broadly support the view that more mindful  
2657 parenting benefits children through lowered parenting stress and improved parenting  
2658 practices (Bögels et al., 2010; Duncan et al., 2009; Parent et al., 2016), they also suggest that  
2659 the mechanisms of action operating between mindful parenting and child outcomes may  
2660 differ depending on the nature of the child’s problems. Specifically, the meta-analysis  
2661 (Chapter 2) found that reductions in child externalizing and cognitive problems, but not  
2662 internalizing problems, were predicted by reductions in parenting stress. The studies detailed



2663 in Chapters 4 and 5 then identified several alternative potential mechanisms of action in  
2664 relation to child internalizing, including parental experiential avoidance, cognitive emotion  
2665 regulation and unhelpful parent beliefs regarding child anxiety. As each of these parent  
2666 variables may contribute to or maintain child internalizing problems (Settipani & Kendall,  
2667 2017; Tiwari et al., 2008; Wald et al., 2018), it is possible that improvements in these parent  
2668 variables following a MPP would flow on to benefit children, for example through parental  
2669 modelling of more adaptive self-regulation. Of course, the identification of these alternative  
2670 possible pathways from mindful parenting to child internalizing symptoms does not rule out a  
2671 role for parenting stress, but at present there is insufficient evidence to draw conclusions  
2672 regarding this.

### 2673 **Clinical Implications**

2674 A number of clinical implications arise from the findings of this thesis. First, this  
2675 thesis has provided preliminary evidence that MPPs can reduce parenting stress and child  
2676 internalizing problems, for community-recruited families concerned primarily about their  
2677 child's internalizing difficulties. MPPs may therefore have a place in helping families to  
2678 manage child internalizing problems. Cognitive-behavioral therapy (CBT) has substantial  
2679 empirical backing as a treatment for child internalizing problems (McPherson & Fristad,  
2680 2014; Murray & Cartwright-Hatton, 2006), and is therefore a first line of treatment for child  
2681 internalizing problems. However, children in stressed families, such as those where parents  
2682 suffer from their own mental health problems or regulatory difficulties, do not benefit to the  
2683 same extent from CBT (Compton et al., 2014; Eckshtain et al., 2018). For these families, it  
2684 may be necessary to specifically target the parent's stress, to improve their ability to  
2685 effectively engage in the child's treatment. MPPs could therefore be considered as an adjunct  
2686 treatment to CBT, for the purpose of reducing parenting stress to benefit the family. In  
2687 addition, the preliminary efficacy of the program described in Chapter 5 with community-

2688 recruited parents suggests MPPs might also be regarded as an appropriate preventive program  
2689 for parents who want help to cope with sub-clinical child internalizing difficulties or do not  
2690 wish to obtain a clinical diagnosis for their child.

2691         The results of the feasibility trial described in Chapter 5 indicate that reducing child  
2692 internalizing difficulties through mindful parenting does not require direct involvement of the  
2693 child. Although research regarding the efficacy of parent-only programs for child  
2694 internalizing problems is relatively sparse, other studies have also shown they can be  
2695 successful. For example, Lebowitz et al. (2020) found a parent-only program aimed at  
2696 reducing parent accommodation of child anxiety to be no less effective than child-only CBT  
2697 and a review by Yap et al. (2016) found no difference in reductions in child internalizing  
2698 between preventive programs that involved parents only or those that included children to  
2699 some extent. There are a number of reasons why a family might choose a parent-only  
2700 program in preference to involving their child in therapy. They may be useful when children  
2701 are too young to attend therapy (van der Sluis et al., 2012) or when child developmental  
2702 problems prevent cognitive intervention (Lebowitz et al., 2020). Importantly, working with  
2703 parents alone means children are not pathologized by being seen as needing treatment (van  
2704 der Sluis et al., 2012). It could be argued that child-to-parent effects, such as child anxiety  
2705 eliciting more controlling parent behavior (Silverman et al., 2021), necessitate the  
2706 involvement of children in therapy for their own internalizing problems when possible.  
2707 However, MPPs specifically seek to build parents' empathy with their child and skills to  
2708 tolerate negative child emotions (Bögels & Restifo, 2013), which may help reduce the  
2709 likelihood of parents' unhelpfully responding to child internalizing symptoms and thus  
2710 reduce the impact of child-to-parent effects without direct child involvement in therapy.

2711         As noted above, the studies described in Chapters 4 and 5 found that mindful  
2712 parenting is related to and may improve child internalizing symptoms and parental

2713 experiential avoidance, cognitive emotion regulation and unhelpful beliefs regarding child  
2714 anxiety. NJAPF was the facet of mindful parenting most closely linked to these child and  
2715 parent variables. Like NJAPF, parental experiential avoidance and cognitive emotion  
2716 regulation also involve non-judgment and acceptance (Garnefski et al., 2001; Tiwari et al.,  
2717 2008). This suggests that for families concerned about child internalizing problems, it would  
2718 be most helpful for MPPs to assist parents to decrease their tendency to be judgmental of  
2719 themselves as parents, and instead build their ability to be accepting of themselves. While the  
2720 concepts of non-judgment and acceptance are typically woven throughout a MPP, including  
2721 in the attitudes modelled by a facilitator in meditation practices and group inquiries (for  
2722 example, Bögels & Restifo, 2013), an enhanced focus on these attitudes could be beneficial  
2723 to parents.

2724         Finally, child age should be considered when offering MPPs to families. Although the  
2725 empirical test of models of mindful parenting (Chapter 3) revealed that the construct of  
2726 mindful parenting was very similar for mothers of children aged 3-18 years and infants aged  
2727 0-2 years, the later studies (Chapters 4 and 5) suggested some differences in the relationship  
2728 between mindful parenting, child internalizing problems and parent variables related to child  
2729 internalizing for these two groups. For example, EAC was a unique predictor of parent  
2730 outcomes only for mothers of children, not for mothers of infants. This could be because  
2731 older children are more self-regulated and thus better at moderating their expression of  
2732 emotion, such that greater emotional awareness regarding the child becomes more relevant  
2733 for parents of older children. For mothers of infants, unlike mothers of children, high levels  
2734 of CC predicted both helpful and unhelpful cognitive regulation strategies. It might therefore  
2735 be of benefit to families to tailor MPPs to suit parents of children of different ages. For  
2736 example, for parents of children, it may be helpful to enhance aspects of the program that  
2737 could develop parents' non-judgmental acceptance of themselves. For parents of infants,

2738 consideration could be given to how parents can balance their compassion for their child with  
2739 care for themselves, to lessen the likelihood of them ruminating or blaming themselves for  
2740 the numerous challenges that can be faced during infancy such as crying, sleeping or feeding  
2741 difficulties (Östberg & Hagekull, 2000).

## 2742 **Thesis Strengths**

2743         This thesis has several strengths. The studies conducted for the thesis built upon each  
2744 other, with those detailed in Chapters 3 to 5 being developed in response to the findings of  
2745 the initial literature review and the systematic review and meta-analysis regarding the  
2746 effectiveness of MPPs. The meta-analysis was the first quantitative evaluation of the  
2747 effectiveness of MPPs to be published, which contributed to the field of research by  
2748 providing a snapshot of the current evidence for effectiveness of MPPs for parenting stress  
2749 and child psychological outcomes, and guidance on areas for further research. Similarly, the  
2750 CFA in Chapter 3 was the first published empirical validation of the IMP conducted with  
2751 English-language parents. The English-language validation was important because it  
2752 confirmed that the major difference between the originally hypothesized model of mindful  
2753 parenting, which was developed in English-language parents, and the models emerging from  
2754 translated versions of the IMP, was not an artefact of translation but a core feature of the  
2755 construct of mindful parenting. Identification of an appropriate model for use with English-  
2756 language parents also enabled the examination in Chapter 4 of which facets of mindful  
2757 parenting were most important as predictors of child internalizing problems and related  
2758 parent variables, which resulted in NJAPF being identified as being of particular relevance in  
2759 connection with child internalizing problems and parent variables that could contribute to or  
2760 maintain child internalizing.

2761         The pilot study in Chapter 5 made a valuable contribution to the mindful parenting  
2762 literature. The limited use of RCTs in much of the existing research precludes researchers

2763 from drawing conclusions regarding the effectiveness of MPPs. Additionally, some of the  
2764 existing research has not explicitly measured mindful parenting, which also makes it less  
2765 clear that post-program improvements in mindful parenting were responsible for outcome  
2766 changes. The pilot study went some way to addressing both these issues by using a  
2767 randomized controlled design and comparing the reported change in mindful parenting for  
2768 each of the intervention and waitlist groups, thus reducing the likelihood that outcome  
2769 changes were due to other factors. It also went further than most previous studies by  
2770 incorporating an in-session task, in which parents visualised and re-experienced their most  
2771 stressful or difficult parenting situation in the preceding week and reported on their coping in  
2772 that situation. This task provided preliminary evidence that MPPs can improve not only  
2773 parents' general tendency to be more mindful and self-regulated, but also their ability to do  
2774 this "in the moment" with their child, which is particularly relevant for parents with  
2775 tendencies to interpret challenging situations as threatening, and to intervene, such as parents  
2776 of children with internalizing problems (Creswell et al., 2005; McLeod et al., 2007).

2777         The studies in this thesis recruited mothers from the community, rather than mothers  
2778 of children with a diagnosed internalizing disorder. This is a strength because the existing  
2779 literature has focused upon MPPs for families of children with diagnosed mental health  
2780 conditions, and the results from the small number of studies run with families recruited from  
2781 the community have been more mixed. However, help-seeking families of undiagnosed  
2782 children may experience similar levels of parenting stress as those of diagnosed children  
2783 (Potharst et al., 2018a), so it is important to provide these families with options for reducing  
2784 their stress and the negative consequences that might flow from that stress. This might  
2785 include families who prefer not to seek out a diagnosis for their child, for example out of a  
2786 desire not to label their child or pathologize their difficulties. The pilot trial provides  
2787 preliminary evidence that MPPs could improve outcomes for these families. Just as general

2788 mindfulness training is helpful for the non-clinical population (Khoury et al., 2015; Querstret  
2789 et al., 2020), making MPPs widely available for parents in the broader community is likely to  
2790 help them manage the normal levels of stress associated with parenting and thus prevent or  
2791 reduce the risk of future child problems connected with parenting stress.

2792 Finally, this thesis considers the relevance of child age in connection with MPPs,  
2793 which has not been explicitly addressed in the existing research. While the CFA confirmed  
2794 similar models of mindful parenting for mothers of children and infants, the regression  
2795 analyses in Chapter 4 and the pilot trial in Chapter 5 demonstrated some differences in the  
2796 relationship between mindful parenting, child internalizing problems and parent variables  
2797 relating to child internalizing, depending on child age. This is of relevance to researchers and  
2798 clinicians involved in the designing and running of MPPs. For example, it may be beneficial  
2799 to tailor the content of MPPs specifically for families of children of a particular age range, or  
2800 to offer MPPs to families with children of a more limited age range, such as to families with  
2801 primary-school aged children, rather than to a broad group such as infants through to  
2802 adolescents.

### 2803 **Thesis Limitations**

2804 There are several limitations to acknowledge in connection with this thesis. First, in  
2805 relation to sample characteristics, the parents who participated in the CFA, regression  
2806 analyses and pilot trial were all, or almost all, mothers. It is therefore important to note that  
2807 these studies only provide evidence as to the structure of mindful parenting and its  
2808 relationships with child internalizing problems in English-language mothers, not in parents  
2809 generally. Also in relation to the sample, the participants in the CFA, regression analyses and  
2810 pilot study appear to be a relatively homogenous group, given that the percentage of  
2811 participants with a University Bachelor or post-graduate degree was at least 74% in those  
2812 studies. This may be related to the use of Facebook as a recruitment tool for these studies.

2813 While Facebook is generally comparable to traditional methods of recruitment, such as mail  
2814 or phone, in terms of recruiting a sample of participants representative of the intended  
2815 population, it does tend to recruit participants with a higher level of education than the  
2816 general community (Thornton et al., 2016). The findings of this thesis therefore do not  
2817 necessarily speak to the ways in which mindful parenting may benefit the broader socio-  
2818 economic spectrum of families.

2819 In relation to assessment methods, the studies conducted in this thesis used parent  
2820 reports of child internalizing problems and parent variables. The use of a single informant  
2821 design is likely to introduce systematic measurement error into the data, particularly in the  
2822 context of a program involving a significant amount of contact time, where parents may  
2823 unconsciously report greater changes due to their investment of time in the program. In  
2824 addition, the outcomes in the regression analyses were assessed only at one point in time, so  
2825 although it is possible that mindful parenting influences child internalizing problems and  
2826 related parent variables, the cross-sectional data in that study does not establish the causal  
2827 direction of relationships between these variables. To some extent, however, the results of the  
2828 pilot trial mitigate this weakness and support a conclusion that mindful parenting impacts  
2829 upon child internalizing and related parent variables, since these outcomes improved as  
2830 expected both immediately after and two months following the MPP.

2831 The pilot trial provided useful evidence that MPPs are feasible for parents concerned  
2832 about their child's internalizing difficulties, in terms of the demand for and acceptability of  
2833 the program, and its likely efficacy in reducing parenting stress and child internalizing  
2834 problems and improving other aspects of parenting that might otherwise contribute to or  
2835 maintain child internalizing. However, given the small sample size used in the pilot trial, the  
2836 indications of efficacy are preliminary only and must be followed up with an appropriately  
2837 powered RCT. Once this has been done, firmer conclusions can be drawn about whether

2838 MPPs improve outcomes for families concerned primarily about their child’s internalizing  
2839 problems.

#### 2840 **Future Research**

2841 As noted above, a full-scale RCT is required to confirm the benefits of MPPs for  
2842 parents of children with primary internalizing difficulties. This could be done with parents  
2843 recruited from both clinical and community settings. It would be appropriate to conduct this  
2844 trial initially using a waitlist control group, as there are only a limited number of MPP studies  
2845 utilising a randomized controlled design and no other widely available evidence-based  
2846 programs specifically targeting parenting stress, against which to compare MPPs. If a full-  
2847 scale trial found the program to be efficacious for reducing primary internalizing problems  
2848 for children with clinically diagnosed internalizing disorders, MPPs could be compared  
2849 against other evidence-based treatments for child internalizing, such as CBT. This would  
2850 provide evidence as to whether MPPs should be offered to parents only as an adjunct to  
2851 existing evidence-based child treatments, to reduce their parenting stress or improve their  
2852 self-regulation so as to support their child’s treatment, or whether MPPs could be offered as  
2853 an alternative treatment for child internalizing problems, for example for families who would  
2854 prefer to pursue parent-only treatment. CBT retention rates and outcomes could also be  
2855 compared for families where parents attended a MPP prior to child- or family- based CBT,  
2856 and families who attended CBT only. It is possible that a MPP could equip all families to  
2857 optimise the benefits of CBT, even when they do not report elevated levels of parenting  
2858 stress.

2859 Another avenue of further research is suggested by a finding from the regression  
2860 study in Chapter 4. Of the six facets of mindful parenting, NJAPF was the most important  
2861 predictor of child internalizing problems, and of parental experiential avoidance, maladaptive  
2862 cognitive emotion regulation and unhelpful beliefs and behaviors relating to child anxiety.



2863 NJAPF encompasses a parent's tendency to be harsh or self-critical, versus accepting or self-  
2864 compassionate, regarding their own parenting. This finding is in line with research on self-  
2865 compassion, which has shown that greater self-compassion predicts both better emotion  
2866 regulation and lower distress (Diedrich et al., 2017; Inwood & Ferrari, 2018), and that  
2867 compassion-based intervention programs result in reductions in adults' anxiety (Kirby et al.,  
2868 2017). The self-judgment and isolation aspects of self-compassion, both of which are  
2869 represented by items in the NJAPF scale, are also stronger predictors of distress than  
2870 mindfulness (Van Dam et al., 2011). MPPs such as the Bögels and Restifo (2013) program  
2871 already include self-compassion practices. However, given the relevance of self-compassion  
2872 to parent well-being, and the finding that NJAPF was the strongest predictor of child  
2873 internalizing problems, future research should consider whether boosting the self-compassion  
2874 component of MPPs would further improve outcomes for parents and children.

2875         One of the identified weaknesses of this thesis is the lack of involvement of fathers in  
2876 the research. Although the individual studies were not initially designed to be limited to  
2877 mothers, the recruitment process across all studies attracted virtually no interest from fathers.  
2878 Future research may therefore need to specifically target fathers as participants. Although  
2879 fathers may generally be less mindful than mothers (Moreira & Canavarro, 2015), one study  
2880 has found the structure of mindful parenting to be the same for mothers and fathers (Pan et  
2881 al., 2019). However, this study was conducted with parents from China and thus may not  
2882 generalise to English-language parents. As it is therefore unclear whether the construct of  
2883 mindful parenting, as measured by the IMP, differs for Western mothers and fathers, the  
2884 structure of mindful parenting should now be confirmed in a sample of Western fathers.

2885         Confirmation of the structure of mindful parenting in fathers would then facilitate  
2886 further research on other aspects of fathers' mindful parenting, such as whether NJAPF was  
2887 as important to the relationships with child internalizing problems and related parent

2888 variables as it was for mothers. As noted above, NJAPF involves an accepting, kind  
2889 relationship with oneself, which is consistent with the evolutionary view of mothers as  
2890 providing a safe, nurturing environment for children (Paquette, 2004). Higher levels of  
2891 NJAPF in mothers could lead to lower levels of child internalizing through the mother's  
2892 modelling of healthier forms of emotional self-regulation, such as acceptance. In contrast,  
2893 though, the evolutionary view of fathers is that they are more robust, risk-taking and outward-  
2894 facing with their children (Paquette, 2004). This is thought to decrease the risk of child  
2895 internalizing problems such as anxiety by challenging children to explore and engage with  
2896 the world (Bögels & Phares, 2008; Majdandžić et al., 2014). It is therefore possible that  
2897 NJAPF would be less relevant to the relationship between fathers' parenting and child  
2898 internalizing problems, than it is for mothers.

## 2899 **Conclusion**

2900         Raising a child with primary internalizing problems can be stressful for parents, even  
2901 though the difficulties may be less obvious to others than those faced by parents of children  
2902 with primary externalizing problems. For example, parents may be faced with withdrawn or  
2903 negative moods, excessive worrying or catastrophizing, frequent attempts to avoid engaging  
2904 in various activities, or school refusal. Given the negative impacts of parenting stress and the  
2905 limited research on MPPs for families of children with primary internalizing problems, the  
2906 goal of this thesis was to investigate whether MPPs reduce parenting stress and child  
2907 internalizing problems for these families, and to identify parent factors through which  
2908 mindful parenting might reduce internalizing problems.

2909         The findings of this thesis indicate that mindful parenting could reduce parenting  
2910 stress and child internalizing problems in families of children with primary internalizing  
2911 concerns. MPPs may benefit these families whether they are recruited through clinical or  
2912 community channels, but the results of the feasibility trial suggest they may be most helpful

2913 in reducing internalizing symptoms in school-aged children, rather than pre-school aged  
2914 children. Although it remains unclear whether mindful parenting reduces child internalizing  
2915 by reducing parenting stress, other potential pathways were identified. Mindful parenting, in  
2916 particular the ability to be non-judgmental regarding oneself as a parent, may reduce child  
2917 internalizing problems by reducing parents' general tendency to regulate their emotions and  
2918 think about anxiety in unhelpful ways. Importantly, mindful parenting also appears to  
2919 improve the ability of parents of children with internalizing symptoms to cope *in-the-moment*  
2920 with stressful or difficult parenting situations, which could lessen the likelihood that these  
2921 parents will find these challenging situations threatening and avoid them, thus maintaining  
2922 their child's symptoms.

2923           Given the potential benefits of MPPs for families of children with primary  
2924 internalizing problems, MPPs could be considered as an adjunct treatment for stressed  
2925 parents having difficulty engaging with CBT for child internalizing problems, as a treatment  
2926 option for child internalizing problems when parents do not wish to involve their child in  
2927 therapy, or as a preventive program for parents who wish to get help with child difficulties  
2928 before they become clinically significant. As the findings of this thesis regarding child  
2929 internalizing problems are preliminary, there is significant scope for further research on this  
2930 topic.

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## Appendices

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# The Effect of Mindfulness Interventions for Parents on Parenting Stress and Youth Psychological Outcomes: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis

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**Background:** The psychological well-being of parents and children is compromised in families characterized by greater parenting stress. As parental mindfulness is associated with lower parenting stress, a growing number of studies have investigated whether mindfulness interventions can improve outcomes for families. This systematic review and meta-analysis evaluates the effectiveness of mindfulness interventions for parents, in reducing parenting stress and improving youth psychological outcomes.

**Methods:** A literature search for peer-reviewed articles and dissertations was conducted in accordance with PRISMA guidelines in the PsycInfo, Medline, PubMed, CINAHL, Web of Science, Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials, and ProQuest Dissertations & Theses databases. Studies were included if they reported on a mindfulness-based intervention delivered in person to parents with the primary aim of reducing parenting stress or improving youth psychological outcomes.

**Results:** Twenty-five independent studies were included in the review. Eighteen studies used a single group design and six were randomized controlled trials. Within-groups, meta-analysis indicated a small, post-intervention reduction in parenting stress ( $g = 0.34$ ), growing to a moderate reduction at 2 month follow-up ( $g = 0.53$ ). Overall, there was a small improvement in youth outcomes ( $g = 0.27$ ). Neither youth age or clinical status, nor time in mindfulness training, moderated parenting stress or overall youth outcome effects. Youth outcomes were not moderated by intervention group attendees. Change in parenting stress predicted change in youth externalizing and cognitive effects, but not internalizing effects. In controlled studies, parenting stress reduced more in mindfulness groups than control groups ( $g = 0.44$ ). Overall, risk of bias was assessed as serious.

**Conclusions:** Mindfulness interventions for parents may reduce parenting stress and improve youth psychological functioning. While improvements in youth externalizing and cognitive outcomes may be explained by reductions in parenting stress, it appears that other parenting factors may contribute to improvements in youth

internalizing outcomes. Methodological weaknesses in the reviewed literature prevent firm conclusions from being drawn regarding effectiveness. Future research should address these methodological issues before mindfulness interventions for parents are recommended as an effective treatment option for parents or their children.

**Keywords:** mindfulness, mindful parenting, parenting intervention, parenting stress, child externalizing, child internalizing, meta-analysis, systematic review

## INTRODUCTION

Parenting stress is associated with negative outcomes for parents and their children (Davis and Carter, 2008; Deater-Deckard et al., 2016). Recently, several studies have linked lower parenting stress with higher parental mindfulness (e.g., Parent et al., 2016; Campbell et al., 2017). Accordingly, a growing number of studies have delivered mindfulness-based interventions to parents, with the aim of reducing parenting stress and improving psychological outcomes for youth (e.g., Zhang et al., 2017; Jones et al., 2018). However, no quantitative synthesis of the literature on the effectiveness of such interventions is currently available. This review and meta-analysis was conducted to evaluate the effectiveness of mindfulness interventions for parents, in reducing parenting stress and improving youth psychological outcomes.

Parents who experience higher parenting stress report poorer psychological well-being (Lavee et al., 1996), more negative affect and less positive affect (Deater-Deckard et al., 2016), and lower marital quality (Robinson and Neece, 2015). In families characterized by greater parenting stress, children have more internalizing and externalizing problems (Huth-Bocks and Hughes, 2007; Davis and Carter, 2008; Robinson and Neece, 2015), poorer cognitive skills such as executive function (de Cock et al., 2017) and more social and interpersonal difficulties (Anthony et al., 2005). Greater parenting stress is also associated with negative parenting behaviors, including harsh discipline (Venta et al., 2016) and hostility (McMahon and Meins, 2012), which have been shown to contribute to poorer child and adolescent psychological outcomes (Rominov et al., 2016; Pinquart, 2017). Managing parenting stress is therefore important for the well-being of parents and their children. It has been suggested that incorporating mindfulness into the parent-child relationship may be one way of achieving this goal (Kabat-Zinn and Kabat-Zinn, 1997; Dumas, 2005; Duncan et al., 2009; Bögels et al., 2010).

In the context of contemporary Western psychology, mindfulness is typically described as a psychological process of bringing non-judgmental awareness to experiences occurring in the present moment (Kabat-Zinn, 2015). Individuals differ in their disposition for mindfulness but can develop their skills through regular practice (Kabat-Zinn, 2003, 2015; Baer et al., 2006). The application of mindfulness to parenting was first described by Kabat-Zinn and Kabat-Zinn (1997). These authors defined mindful parenting as paying non-judgmental, non-reactive attention to each moment and interaction with the child, such that the parent is aware of their child's needs in any moment.

Building on this account, Duncan et al. (2009) developed a model of mindful parenting comprising five dimensions: listening to the child with full attention, non-judgmental acceptance of self and child, emotional awareness of self and child, self-regulation in parenting, and compassion for self and child. Mindful parents reduce their use of automatic but unhelpful ways of evaluating or interacting with their child, thus making way for more positive parent-child relationships (Dumas, 2005; Duncan et al., 2009). For example, mindfulness can assist parents to break a habitual pattern of automatically reacting with anger to a child's tantrum, which is likely to elicit further negative affect from the child (Dumas, 2005).

In light of these ideas, mindfulness-based interventions such as the 8-week Mindfulness-based Stress Reduction program (MBSR; Kabat-Zinn et al., 1992), have been offered to parents who experience high levels of stress, anxiety, or depression (Bazzano et al., 2015). Other researchers have adapted the MBSR program specifically to the parenting context (Bögels et al., 2014; Eames et al., 2015). These mindful parenting programs are based upon the same principles of mindfulness as MBSR and follow a similar session structure. MBSR for parents and mindful parenting programs both aim to improve outcomes for families, particularly reducing parenting stress (for example, Neece, 2014; Chaplin et al., 2018). However, mindful parenting programs focus specifically on the stressors faced by parents and the patterns of interaction they have with their children. For example, the well known "observing a raisin" exercise is used in MBSR to illustrate the concept of stepping out of automatic pilot. In one mindful parenting course (Bögels and Restifo, 2014), this exercise is followed by a homework practice in which parents mindfully observe their child, using the skills they learnt while observing a raisin.

In the past decade, a number of studies have explored the effects of both MBSR and mindful parenting interventions on parenting stress. Following MBSR programs, reductions in parenting stress were reported by parents of pre-school aged children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and other developmental delays (Chan and Neece, 2018). In a similar clinical sample, the reductions in parenting stress were larger for the MBSR group than a waitlist control group (Neece, 2014). Mindful parenting interventions have been offered in community, as well as in clinical settings. In two small studies of community-recruited parents, no reduction in parenting stress was found following mindful parenting training (Maloney and Altmaier, 2007; Eames et al., 2015), whilst in a larger community study, a reduction was reported (Potharst et al., 2018). The difference in sample sizes may account for the

contrasting findings in these studies. In the clinical context, parents of children and adolescents with a range of externalizing and internalizing disorders (Bögels et al., 2014; Ridderinkhof et al., 2017) reported both immediate and maintained reductions in parenting stress following mindful parenting interventions. In contrast, parents of children with Attention Deficit and Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) reported a moderate reduction in parenting stress only at 2 month follow-up (van der Oord et al., 2012). The majority of mindful parenting intervention studies have used a single group design. However, a small number of controlled studies have found mindful parenting groups report greater reductions in parenting stress than control groups, in community and clinical settings (Ferraioli and Harris, 2013; Lo et al., 2017a; Corthorn, 2018). In sum, although results are mixed, MBSR and mindful parenting interventions appear to be associated with reduced levels of parenting stress, both in community and clinical contexts.

Studies of MBSR and mindful parenting have also investigated outcomes for the children of parents who attended the interventions. Most studies investigated internalizing and externalizing symptoms, which are the most common psychological problems in youth (Bayer et al., 2008). A number of studies also examined cognitive and social domains of functioning, both of which are related to important longer term problems, such as poorer academic achievement (Malecki and Elliott, 2002; Daley and Birchwood, 2010). Following their parents' attendance at MBSR, pre-school aged children with ASD and other developmental delays showed significant improvements in cognitive, externalizing, and social outcomes (Neece, 2014; Lewallen and Neece, 2015). Following mindful parenting training, small to moderate reductions in youth internalizing problems have been reported by youth with a range of mental health problems and their parents (Bögels et al., 2014; Haydicky et al., 2015; Racey et al., 2017). In contrast, in a study involving 10 adolescents with ADHD, no significant improvements in adolescent internalizing problems were reported (van de Weijer-Bergsma et al., 2012). Similarly, externalizing problems have been reported to reduce after mindful parenting interventions by parents (Bögels et al., 2014; Meppelink et al., 2016) and youth (Bögels et al., 2008; Ridderinkhof et al., 2017) in some studies, but not in others (De Bruin et al., 2015; Jones et al., 2018). In relation to cognitive outcomes, parents have reported fewer attention problems (Ridderinkhof et al., 2017), but no reductions in metacognitive (Zhang et al., 2017) or learning problems (Haydicky et al., 2015). Finally, after mindful parenting interventions, youth social outcomes improved in some studies (Bögels et al., 2008; Haydicky et al., 2015) but not others (De Bruin et al., 2015; Jones et al., 2018). The results of the literature relating to youth outcomes are therefore mixed.

Considering the number of studies and the mixed results they report, a quantitative evaluation of the available data is needed. However, there are no published meta-analyses in this field of research. Further, although two narrative reviews have been conducted, neither of these focuses exclusively on mindfulness interventions delivered to parents. Harnett and Dawe (2012) reviewed 24 interventions incorporating

mindfulness, for school students and their careers. Only two of those interventions were delivered to parents. Moreover, those two interventions were not primarily mindfulness interventions. Instead, they incorporated an element of mindfulness into existing behavioral skills programs. Townshend et al. (2016) reviewed seven randomized controlled trials (RCTs) of various interventions delivered to parents. Again, only two of the reviewed trials delivered interventions that were primarily mindfulness-based, while the others incorporated aspects of mindfulness in behavioral or emotion-coaching programs. A review focused upon mindfulness interventions for parents is therefore warranted. Accordingly, the aim of this review was to systematically and quantitatively evaluate the effectiveness of mindfulness interventions for parents. To reflect the range of outcomes covered in the existing literature, the outcomes of interest in this review were parenting stress, and youth functioning across internalizing, externalizing, cognitive, and social domains. Due to the noted similarities between mindful parenting interventions and other mindfulness-based interventions such as MBSR for parents, we amalgamated these studies into a single group and will refer to them together as "mindfulness interventions for parents."

## METHODS

The Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) statement and checklist (Moher et al., 2009) were used to guide the conduct and reporting of this review.

### Eligibility Criteria

Studies were eligible for inclusion in the review if they reported on a mindfulness-based intervention delivered in person to parents, with a primary aim of reducing parenting stress or improving youth psychological outcomes. Studies that met this criterion that also delivered a parallel mindfulness intervention to a child of the participant parents were included. Studies were excluded if they reported on an intervention that was not a mindfulness-based intervention or if the intervention incorporated other forms of therapy or training such as behavioral parent training, acceptance and commitment therapy or cognitive therapy. Studies were also excluded if they used an individual case series or qualitative design.

### Search Strategy and Information Sources

A comprehensive literature search was conducted between 9 August and 11 October 2018, in the PsycInfo, Medline, PubMed, CINAHL, Web of Science, Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials and ProQuest Dissertations & Theses databases, for peer-reviewed articles and published dissertations indexed up to and including 30 September, 2018. In PsycInfo, we searched the database subject headings Mindfulness and Meditation, and the keywords mindful\* and meditation, in combination with the subject headings Parenting, Parents, Parenting Style, Parenting Skills, Parental Attitudes, Parent Training, Childrearing Attitudes, Childrearing Practices, Family Intervention and Family Therapy and the key words parent\*, child?rearing, family intervention\*, and family therap\*. For the



search, no limitations were placed on the language in which the study was reported. The reference lists of included articles were also searched for relevant studies but no additional studies were identified in this way.

The database search was conducted by the first author. After removal of duplicates, a title and abstract screening of all articles was conducted by the first author to assess the studies against the eligibility criteria. One-third of the articles were also screened independently by a Masters-level graduate student in clinical psychology. A full-text review of the short-listed articles was then conducted independently by both the first author and the same graduate student, with 92% agreement between the two reviewers on the selection of studies for inclusion in the review.

## Data Extraction

All data was extracted by the first author. The data extracted from each study included participant characteristics, youth age and gender, parent and youth psychopathology, study design, and details of the intervention. These study details are presented in **Table 1**.

Effect sizes reported by the study authors for parenting stress and youth psychological outcomes were also extracted and are included in **Tables 2, 3**, respectively.

Quantitative data needed for calculation of effect sizes in the meta-analysis were also extracted. Where a study did not report the data required for calculation of effect sizes, they were requested by email from the corresponding author of the study. If no response was received, the study was included in the systematic review (in **Tables 1–3**), but not included in the quantitative analyses.

## Data Analysis

The meta-analysis was conducted using the Comprehensive Meta-Analysis program, version 3.0 (CMA). Two types of summary effect were calculated, using means and standard deviations whenever these were available, and statistics such as *t* and *p* when they were not. For studies reporting pre- and post-intervention outcome data, we calculated Hedges' *g* within-group effect sizes. For studies comparing outcomes of mindfulness and control groups, we calculated Hedges' *g* between-group differences in effect size. Hedges' *g* is a weighted mean effect size that corrects for potential bias due to small sample sizes (Hedges and Olkin, 1985). Cohen's guidelines that an effect size of 0.20 is small, 0.50 is moderate and 0.80 is large (Cohen, 1988) may be applied to both Cohen's *d* and Hedges' *g* effect sizes. For all analyses, a correlation of  $r = 0.70$  was assumed between pre- and post-intervention measures (Rosenthal, 1993). Random-effects models were used for main effects analyses, to reflect the assumption that the true effect size would vary from study to study because study participants were drawn from different populations. Each summary effect reported in this paper is therefore an estimate of the mean of a distribution of true effects (Borenstein et al., 2009). Heterogeneity amongst studies in each main-effect analysis was assessed using the *Q* and  $I^2$  statistics. *Q* reflects the distance of each study from the summary effect. A significant *Q*-statistic indicates variance in true effects, rather than variance due only to random sampling

error (Borenstein et al., 2009).  $I^2$  reflects the proportion of observed variance in effects that is due to heterogeneity, or variance in true effects (Higgins et al., 2003). Higgins et al. suggest that  $I^2$  values of 25, 50, and 75% indicate low, moderate, and high heterogeneity, respectively.

Several methodological issues arose in connection with the calculation of the summary effect size for parenting stress. All studies except one reported either a total parenting stress score or the score from a single parenting stress subscale. A parenting stress effect size was therefore calculated for each of these studies, using the single reported outcome score. However, Chaplin et al. (2018) reported separate data for three subscales of the Stress Index for Parents of Adolescents (SIPA; Sheras et al., 1998). Rather than including each of these three subscales as independent effects in the meta-analysis, the procedure described by Borenstein et al. (2009) was followed to create a single, composite effect for this study. Using a single effect ensures that additional weight is not given to this study, as would be the case if the subscales were treated as independent of each other. It also ensures that the precision of the summary effect is not over-estimated due to the positive correlations between each subscale (Borenstein et al., 2009). Under this procedure, the effects for each subscale were averaged to give a composite parenting stress effect size. To calculate the variance of the composite effect, a correlation between the subscales of  $r = 0.55$  was used, based on the reported correlations between the three relevant subscales of  $r = 0.52–0.57$  (Sheras et al., 1998). A similar issue arose in relation to the parenting stress reporter. Although the majority of studies presented data for a single parenting stress reporter, van de Weijer-Bergsma et al. (2012) reported separate data for mothers and fathers. As mothers and fathers were reporting their levels of stress in respect of the same adolescent, the mother and father effects were not independent. Accordingly, a composite mother/father effect size was calculated following the procedure described above, using a correlation between the two outcomes of  $r = 0.60$ . This *r*-value was chosen using the correlations between mother- and father-reports of child anxiety ( $r = 0.68$ ) and parental rearing (*rs* between 0.39 and 0.49) reported in Bögels and van Melick (2004), as a guide. Finally, Potharst et al. (2018) reported data separately for parents participating in clinical and non-clinical settings. The effects reported for these two settings have been included separately in all analyses, as if they were data from two separate studies, because they are based on reports from independent groups of parents participating in independent settings.

Due to the limited number of studies reporting on specific youth psychological outcomes, a detailed quantitative analysis was not conducted in respect of each youth outcome covered by the reviewed studies. Instead, specific outcomes were grouped into internalizing, externalizing, cognitive, and social domains, as the reported outcomes all fell within one of these four domains of functioning. In addition, to provide a large enough pool of effects for moderator analyses to be conducted, a new "overall youth outcomes" variable was created. This variable was created by first calculating effect sizes for youth outcomes reported by parents and then calculating a single, composite parent-reported effect size for each study using the Borenstein et al. (2009)



**TABLE 1** | Details of included studies.

Study	Sample size and parents' gender	Youth age (range) in years and gender	Parent clinical status <sup>^</sup>	Youth clinical status and primary diagnosis	Study design and conditions	Intervention characteristics		
						Intervention program	Intervention group/s	Sessions
Bazzano et al. (2015)	<i>N</i> = 66 parents/caregivers (77% mothers/female)	NR	Non-clinical	Clinical: ASD (59%), ID (21%), cerebral palsy (5%), Down syndrome (3%), other diagnoses (11%)	Uncontrolled trial: 1. MP	MBSR adapted for parents of children with disabilities	Parent/caregiver group	8 weeks × 2 h + 4 h silent retreat; total 20 h
Bögels et al. (2008)	<i>N</i> = 14 parents (57% mothers) and 14 adolescents	<i>M</i> = 14.4 (11–17) 57% boys	Clinical: DD (21%), PTSD (21%), ADHD (14%), PDD (14%), Asperger's (7%)	Clinical: ODD (43%), PDD (21%), ADHD (14%), CD (14%) ASD (7%)	WLC trial: 1. MP	MBCT adapted for parents	Parent group and separate adolescent mindfulness group	8 weeks × 1.5 h; total 12 h (for both parent and adolescent groups)
Bögels et al. (2014)	<i>N</i> = 86 parents (89% mothers)	<i>M</i> = 10.7 (2–21) 60% boys	Clinical: Parent-child relational problem (58%), DD (16%), adjustment disorder (8%), BD (2%), ADHD (1%), BPD (1%)	Clinical: ADHD (47%), ASD (21%), AD (7%), DD (5%), ODD (4%), LD (4%), CD (1%), schizophrenia (1%)	WLC trial: 1. MP	MP (Bögels and Restifo, 2013)	Parent group	8 weeks × 3 h; total 24 h
Chan and Neece (2018)#	<i>N</i> = 80 parents (96% mothers)	<i>M</i> = 4.18 (2.5–5) 71% boys	Non-clinical	Clinical: ASD (64%), other developmental delay (36%)	RCT: 1. MBSR 2. Wait list control	MBSR: MBSR program Control: Nil (offered MBSR program after completion of waitlist period)	MBSR: Parent group Control: Nil	MBSR: 8 weeks × 2 h + 6 h retreat; total 22 h Control: Nil
Chaplin et al. (2018)	<i>N</i> = 100 mothers	<i>M</i> = 14.04 (12–17) 48% boys	Non-clinical: self-reported parenting stress	Non-clinical: inclusion criteria did not require diagnosis or referral, but 53% of families receiving psychotherapy	RCT: 1. MP 2. Parent education control	MP: Parenting Mindfully (based on MBSR and Duncan et al., 2009) Control: presentation, handouts on adolescent development and parenting, question time	MP: Parent group Control: Parent group	MP: 8 weeks × 2 h; total 16 h Control: 3 meetings × 30 min each
Corthorn (2018)	<i>N</i> = 43 mothers	<i>M</i> = 2.9 (intervention group) and <i>M</i> = 3.0 (control group). Overall range = 2–5 Gender NR	Non-clinical	Non-clinical	Controlled trial: 1. MP 2. No treatment control	MP: MBSR adapted for parents Control: Nil	MP: Parent group Control: Nil	MP: 8 weeks × 2 h; total 16 h Control: Nil
De Bruin et al. (2015)	<i>N</i> = 29 parents (62% mothers) and 23 adolescents	<i>M</i> = 15.8 (11–23) 74% boys	Non-clinical	Clinical: ASD (52%), PDD (48%)	Uncontrolled trial: 1. MP	MP (Bögels and Restifo, 2013)	Parent group and separate adolescent mindfulness group	9 weeks × 1.5 h; total 13 h (for both parent and adolescent groups)
Eames et al. (2015)	<i>N</i> = 23 mothers	<i>M</i> = 3.14 (1–6) 55% boys	Non-clinical: low socio-economic community	Non-clinical	Uncontrolled trial: 1. MP	Mindfulness-based well-being for parents (adapted from MBSR)	Parent group	8 weeks × 2 h; total 16 h

(Continued)

TABLE 1 | Continued

Study	Sample size and parents' gender	Youth age (range) in years and gender	Parent clinical status <sup>^</sup>	Youth clinical status and primary diagnosis	Study design and conditions	Intervention characteristics		
						Intervention program	Intervention group/s	Sessions
Ferraioli and Harris (2013)	<i>N</i> = 15 parents (66% mothers)	NR (all under 18)	Non-clinical	Clinical: ASD (66%), PDD (34%)	RCT: 1. MP 2. Skills-based parent training Participants matched on parenting stress scores.	MP: Mindfulness-based parent training (adapted from mindfulness module, Linehan, 1993) Control: behavioral parent training for parents of children with ASD	MP: Parent group Control: Parent group	MP: 8 weeks × 2 h; total 16 h Control: 8 weeks × 2 h; total 16 h
Haydicky et al. (2015)	<i>N</i> = 17 parents (94% mothers) and 18 adolescents	<i>M</i> = 15.5 (13–18) 72% boys	Non-clinical	Clinical: ADHD	WLC trial: 1. MP	MP (adapted from Bögels et al., 2008)	Parent group and separate adolescent mindfulness group	8 weeks × 1.5 h; total 12 h (for both parent and adolescent groups)
Jones et al. (2018)	<i>N</i> = 21 parents (86% mothers)	<i>M</i> = 10.53 (4–16) Note: mean VABS functioning ability = 4.95 62% boys	Non-clinical	Clinical: ASD (76%), ID (10%), cerebral palsy (10%), Down's syndrome (5%)	Uncontrolled trial: 1. MP	Mindfulness-based wellbeing for parents (adapted from MBSR)	Parent group	8 weeks × 2 h; total 16 h
Lewallen and Neece (2015)#	<i>N</i> = 24 mothers	<i>M</i> = 3.40 (2.5–5) 67% boys	Non-clinical	Clinical: ASD (83%), other developmental delay (17%)	RCT: 1. MBSR 2. Wait list control	MBSR: MBSR program Control: Nil (offered MBSR after waitlist)	MBSR: Parent group Control: Nil	MBSR: 8 weeks × 2 h + 6 h retreat; total 22 h Control: Nil
Lo et al. (2017a)	<i>N</i> = 180 parents (94% mothers)	NR (pre-school age) 77% boys	Non-clinical	Clinical: ASD (57%), developmental delay (28%), ADHD (7%), other diagnosis (8%)	RCT: 1. MP 2. No treatment control	MP: MP adapted from Bögels (2013) and Coatsworth et al. (2014) Control: Nil (mindfulness workshop, after study)	MP: Parent group Control: Nil	MP: 6 weeks × 1.5 h; total 9 h Control: Nil
Lo et al. (2017b)	<i>N</i> = 100 parents (96% mothers)	<i>M</i> = 6.25 (5–7) 83% boys	Non-clinical	Clinical: ADHD	RCT: 1. MP 2. Wait list control	MP: MP adapted from Bögels and Restifo (2014) and Coatsworth et al. (2010) Control: Nil (offered MP after waitlist)	MP: Parent group and separate child mindfulness group Control: Nil	MP: 6 weeks × 1.5 h; total 9 h (for parent groups). 8 weeks × 1 h (for child groups). Control: Nil
Maloney and Altmaier (2007)	<i>N</i> = 12 parents (83% mothers) and 12 children	<i>M</i> = 3.9 (2.75–6) Gender NR	Non-clinical: participants recently divorced or separated	Non-clinical	Uncontrolled trial: 1. MP	MP (Placone-Willey, 2002)	Parent group	12 weeks; session length NR; total 15 h
Mann et al. (2016)	<i>N</i> = 38 parents (95% mothers)	Mean NR (2–6) Gender NR	Non-clinical: history of depression (≥ 3 episodes and in full/partial remission)	Non-clinical	RCT: 1. MP + usual care 2. Usual care control	MP: MBCT adapted for parents with history of depression Control: usual care	MP: Parent group Control: Nil	MP: 8 weeks, session length and total hours NR Control: Nil

(Continued)

TABLE 1 | Continued

Study	Sample size and parents' gender	Youth age (range) in years and gender	Parent clinical status <sup>^</sup>	Youth clinical status and primary diagnosis	Study design and conditions	Intervention characteristics		
						Intervention program	Intervention group/s	Sessions
Meppelink et al. (2016)	<i>N</i> = 70 parents (93% mothers)	<i>M</i> = 8.7 (range NR) 57% boys	Non-clinical	Clinical: ASD (29%), parent-child interaction problem (26%), ADHD (24%), AD (3%), ODD (1.5%), adjustment disorder (1.5%), other diagnosis (6%)	Uncontrolled trial: 1. MP	MP (Bögels and Restifo, 2014)	Parent group	8 weeks × 3 h; total 24 h
Neece (2014)	<i>N</i> = 46 parents (78% mothers)	<i>M</i> = 3.84 (2.5–5) 71% boys	Non-clinical	Clinical: ASD	RCT: 1. MBSR 2. Wait list control	MBSR: MBSR Control: Nil (offered MBSR after waitlist)	MBSR: Parent group Control: Nil	MBSR: 8 weeks × 2 h + 6 h retreat; total 22 h Control: Nil
Potharst et al. (2017)	<i>N</i> = 37 mothers	<i>M</i> = 0.86 (0–1.5) 50% boys	Clinical: mental health disorder (84%) or referral for difficulties related to mothering	Non-clinical: sleeping problems (27%), excessive crying (18%)	Uncontrolled trial: 1. MP	MP adapted for mothers with a baby (Bögels et al., 2014)	Mother/baby group	8 weeks × 2 h; total 16 h
Potharst et al. (2018) <sup>a</sup>	<i>N</i> = 98 parents (82% mothers) Non-clinical setting	<i>M</i> = 8.9 (0–35.3) Gender NR	Non-clinical, self-reported parenting stress	Non-clinical	WLC trial: 1. MP	MP shortened for non-clinical context (Bögels and Restifo, 2013)	Parent group	8 weeks × 2 h; total 16 h <sup>b</sup>
Potharst et al. (2018) Clinical setting	<i>N</i> = 89 parents (80% mothers)	<i>M</i> = 11.7 (2.6–25.4) Gender NR	Non-clinical	Clinical: ADHD (31%), ASD (23%), DICA (10%), AD (5%), PTSD (4%), MD (1%), OCD (1%), ODD (1%), IED (1%), unknown diagnosis (21%)	Uncontrolled trial: 1. MP	MP (Bögels and Restifo, 2013)	Parent group	8 weeks × 3 h + 3 h booster session, 8 weeks post-completion; total 27 h <sup>c</sup>
Racey et al. (2017)	<i>N</i> = 29 parents (97% mothers) and 25 adolescents	<i>M</i> = 16.4 (14–18) 0% boys	Non-clinical: 50% parents had history of depression	Clinical: partially recovered from depressive episode	Uncontrolled trial: 1. MBCT	MBCT adapted for parents and youth	Parent group and separate adolescent mindfulness group	8 weeks (for both parent and adolescent groups); session length and total hours NR
Ridderinkhof et al. (2017)	<i>N</i> = 74 parents (58% mothers) and 45 adolescents	<i>M</i> = 13.03 (8–19) 80% boys	Non-clinical	Clinical: ASD (IQ ≥ 80)	Uncontrolled trial: 1. MP	MP adapted for parents of children with ASD from Bögels and Restifo (2014)	Parent group and separate adolescent mindfulness group	9 weeks × 1.5 h (for both parent and adolescent groups) + 1x joint parent/adolescent booster session, 9 weeks post-completion; total 15 h
Short et al. (2017)	<i>N</i> = 59 mothers	NR (≤ 3) Gender NR	Clinical: in treatment for opioid and other substance-use disorders	Non-clinical	Uncontrolled trial: 1. MP	MP adapted from MBSR for parents with high rates of trauma	Parent group	12 weeks × 2 h; total 24 h
van de Weijer-Bergsma et al. (2012)	<i>N</i> = 11 parents (55% mothers) and 10 adolescents	<i>M</i> = 13.4 (11–15) 50% boys	Non-clinical	Clinical: ADHD	Uncontrolled trial: 1. MP	MP (Bögels et al., 2008 and van der Oord et al., 2012)	Parent group and separate adolescent mindfulness group	8 weeks × 1.5 h (for both parent and child groups) + 1x joint parent/adolescent booster session, 8 weeks post-completion; total ~13 h

(Continued)

TABLE 1 | Continued

Study	Sample size and parents' gender	Youth age (range) in years and gender	Parent clinical status <sup>^</sup>	Youth clinical status and primary diagnosis	Study design and conditions	Intervention characteristics		
						Intervention program	Intervention group/s	Sessions
van der Oord et al. (2012)	<i>N</i> = 22 parents (95% mothers) and 22 children	<i>M</i> = 9.55 (8–12) 73% boys	Non-clinical	Clinical: ADHD	WLC trial: 1. MP	MP adapted for parents of children with ADHD from Bögels et al. (2008) and Bögels et al. (2010)	Parent group and separate mindfulness group for children	8 weeks × 1.5 h; total 12 h (for both parent and child groups)
Voos (2017)	<i>N</i> = 21 parents (71% mothers)	<i>M</i> = 9.5 (range NR; <18) 91% boys	Non-clinical	Clinical: ASD	Uncontrolled trial: 1. MP	MP (Bögels and Restifo, 2013)	Parent group	8 weeks × 1.5 h; total 12 h
Xu (2017) <sup>#</sup>	<i>N</i> = 32 parents (90% mothers)	<i>M</i> = 4.68 (2.5–5) 71% boys	Non-clinical	Clinical: ASD (48%), ID or other developmental delay (36%), Down's syndrome (16%)	Uncontrolled trial: 1. MBSR	MBSR	Parent group	8 weeks × 2 h + 6 h retreat; total 22 h
Zhang et al. (2017)	<i>N</i> = 11 parents (64% mothers) and 11 children	<i>M</i> = 9.5 (8–12) 73% boys	Non-clinical	Clinical: ADHD	Uncontrolled trial: 1. MP	MP (van der Oord et al., 2012; van de Weijer-Bergsma et al., 2012)	Parent group and separate child mindfulness group	8 weeks × 1.5 h; total 12 h (for both parent and child groups)

<sup>^</sup>For both parent and youth clinical status, "Clinical" means that the participating parent or their child were selected for the study based on either a clinical diagnosis, or referral for clinical assistance, for a mental health difficulty. "Non-clinical" means the participating parents, or their child, were not selected for the study based on either a clinical diagnosis or referral for clinical assistance. A non-clinical group of parents or youth may still, therefore, include individuals who meet criteria for a psychiatric or physical health condition; NR, Not reported; MBSR, Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction (Kabat-Zinn et al., 1992); MBCT, Mindfulness-Based Cognitive Therapy (Segal et al., 2002); MP, mindful parenting; WLC, waitlist controlled; RCT, randomized, controlled trial; ASD, an autism spectrum disorder; ID, an intellectual disability; DD, a depressive disorder; PTSD, post-traumatic stress disorder; ADHD, attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder; PDD, pervasive developmental disorder; ODD, oppositional defiant disorder; CD, conduct disorder; BD, bipolar disorder; BPD, borderline personality disorder; AD, anxiety disorder; LD, learning disorder; OCD, obsessive compulsive disorder; MD, mood disorder; IED, intermittent explosive disorder; DICA, disorder of infancy, childhood or adolescence not otherwise specified; VABS, Vineland Adaptive Behavior Scales (Sparrow et al., 1984); <sup>#</sup>Chan and Neece (2018), Lewallen and Neece (2015), and Xu (2017) are included in this table for clarity, however these three studies appear to utilize samples of participants overlapping with Neece (2014); <sup>a</sup>Potharst et al. (2018) included two separate streams of participants. One stream attended the intervention in non-clinical settings, the other attended in clinical settings. Study characteristics are reported separately for each setting, given they were independent from each other; <sup>b</sup>basic non-clinical program was 8 weeks × 2 h. However, there were 4 locations (A, B, C, and D) and some varied the basic program. B ran 2.5 h sessions, D ran 3 h sessions, and B and D offered a follow-up session; <sup>c</sup>basic clinical program was 8 weeks × 3 h + 3 h booster. This was run at 4 locations (E, F, G, and H). Location E adjusted the session length to 2.5 h.

**TABLE 2** | Reported results of mindfulness intervention, for parenting stress.

Study	Parenting stress measure <sup>#</sup>	Within group results		Between group results	
		Pre-post	Pre-follow up <sup>^</sup>	Pre-post	Pre-follow up <sup>^</sup>
Bazzano et al. (2015)	PSS	NR <sup>a</sup> (+)	NR <sup>a</sup> (+)	–	–
Bögels et al. (2014)	PSI, Competence scale	$d = 0.44$ (+)	$d = 0.47$ (+)	–	–
Chaplin et al. (2018)	SIPA subscales:				
	Parent Life Restrictions	–	–	$d = 0.53$ (+)	–
	Parent Incompetence/Guilt	–	–	$d = -0.14$	–
	Relationship with Partner	–	–	$d = 0.59$ (+)	–
Corthorn (2018)	PSI-SF	–	–	NR (+)	$d = 0.66$ (+)
De Bruin et al. (2015)	PSI	$d = 0.21$ (+)	$d = -0.01$	–	–
Eames et al. (2015)	PSI-SF	$g = 0.81$ <sup>b</sup>	–	–	–
Ferraioli and Harris (2013)	PSI-SF	$d = 2.03$ (+)	$d = 1.01$	$d = 1.59$ (+)	$d = 0.63$
Haydicky et al. (2015)	SIPA	NR	$d = 0.81$ (+)	–	–
Jones et al. (2018)	QRS-PFP	$d = -0.12$	–	–	–
Lo et al. (2017a)	PSI-SF	–	–	$d = 0.34$ (+)	–
Lo et al. (2017b)	PSI-SF	–	–	$d = 0.19$ (+)	–
	HRV Low frequency <sup>c</sup>	–	–	$d = 0.00$	–
Maloney and Altmaier (2007)	PSI-SF	$d = 0.26$	–	–	–
Mann et al. (2016)	PSI-SF	–	–	$d = 0.40$ (4 mo.)	$d = 0.40$ (9 mo.)
Neece (2014)	PSI-SF, Parental Distress scale	$d = 0.70$ (+) <sup>d</sup>	–	$d = 0.70$ (+)	–
Potharst et al. (2017)	PSI, modified version	$d = 0.25$	$d = 0.44$ (+); $d = 0.53$ (+) (1 yr.)	–	–
Potharst et al. (2018)	OBVL	$d = 0.37$ (+)	$d = 0.67$ (+)	–	–
Ridderinkhof et al. (2017)	PSI, Competence scale	$d = 0.21$ (+)	$d = 0.39$ (+); $d = 0.28$ (+) (1 yr.)	–	–
Short et al. (2017)	PSI-SF	$d = 0.04$	–	–	–
van de Weijer-Bergsma et al. (2012)	PSI-SF	$d = -0.50$ <sup>M</sup> ; $d = 0.70$ <sup>F</sup> (+)	$d = -0.20$ <sup>M</sup> ; $d = 1.1$ <sup>F</sup> (+)	–	–
van der Oord et al. (2012)	PSI-SF	NR (ns)	$d = 0.57$ (+)	–	–
Voos (2017)	PSI	NR	$d = 0.94$ (+)	–	–
Zhang et al. (2017)	PSI-SF	$d = -0.18$ (+)	–	–	–

<sup>#</sup> = all parenting stress effects are based upon the reports of the parent/s who attended the intervention, and therefore combine mother and father reports, except in the case of van de Weijer-Bergsma et al. (2012) which reports mother and father results separately; <sup>^</sup> = 8 week follow up, unless otherwise indicated; (+) indicates effect size is significant (as reported by the relevant study author/s),  $p < .05$ . For within-group results, effect size is reported as a positive number if there was improvement in the outcome, and as a negative number if there was a deterioration. For between-group results, effect size is reported as a positive number if the outcome improved more in the mindfulness group than the control group; NR = not reported; ns = not significant; <sup>a</sup> =  $d$  not reported, but % change reported as significant; <sup>b</sup>  $g$  = Hedges' glass; <sup>c</sup> = only low frequency heart rate variability (HRV) is included, as the effect for high frequency HRV was reported only as non-significant; <sup>d</sup> = the within-group parenting stress effect is reported in Xu (2017); <sup>M</sup> = mother; <sup>F</sup> = father; PSS = Parental Stress Scale (Berry and Jones, 1995); PSI = Parenting Stress Index (Abidin, 1983); PSI-SF = Parenting Stress Index, Short Form (Abidin, 1995); SIPA = Stress Index for Parents of Adolescents (Sheras et al., 1998); QRS-PFP = Questionnaire on Resources and Stress Short Form – Parent and Family Problems subscale (Friedrich et al., 1983); OBVL = Opvoedingsbelastingvragenlijst, Veerman et al. (2014), a Dutch parenting stress questionnaire.

procedure described above, assuming a correlation between the outcomes within each study of  $r = 0.60$ . In studies reporting a broadband scale for youth outcomes (for example, “Internalizing problems”), the effect for the broadband scale was used in the calculation of the overall youth outcomes summary effect size. Where a study also reported data for the specific scales making up that broadband scale, specific scale effects were not included. In studies where no broadband scale was used, but more than one youth psychological outcome was reported (for example, anxiety and depression), then these were combined to form a composite effect. For studies reporting data for only one relevant youth outcome, then the effect size for that outcome was used for that study. For the two studies that reported separate

youth outcome data for two parents or a parent and another family caregiver (van de Weijer-Bergsma et al., 2012; Lewallen and Neece, 2015), a composite parent-reported effect size was calculated using a correlation of  $r = 0.60$  between the two parent or caregiver outcomes. The same two studies also included data from tutor reports on some outcomes. However, for consistency with the other studies, the tutor-reported data was not included in the calculation of the youth outcomes effect for those two studies. Data from youth-reported and objective tests of youth outcomes were also not used, as most studies did not include these data. The single youth outcome effect size for each study was then combined with the others to generate a summary, parent-reported overall youth outcome effect size.

**TABLE 3** | Reported results of mindfulness intervention, for youth psychological outcomes.

Study	Outcomes	Measure	Reporter	Within group results		Between group results (Pre-post)
				Pre-post	Pre-follow up <sup>^</sup>	
Bögels et al. (2008)	Mindfulness	MAAS	Youth	$d = 0.50 (+)$	$d = 0.50 (+)$	–
	Internalizing outcomes:					
	Internalizing problems	YSR	Youth	$d = 0.50$	$d = 0.50$	–
		CBCL	Parent	$d = -0.10$	$d = 0.30$	–
	Happiness	SHS	Youth	$d = 0.60 (+)$	$d = 0.60 (+)$	–
	Externalizing outcomes:					
	Externalizing problems	YSR	Youth	$d = 1.10 (+)$	$d = 1.20 (+)$	–
		CBCL	Parent	$d = 0.30$	$d = 0.40$	–
	Self-control	SCRS	Youth	$d = 0.80 (+)$	$d = 0.60 (+)$	–
	Cognitive outcomes:					
	Thought problems	YSR	Youth	$d = 0.40$	$d = 0.30$	–
		CBCL	Parent	$d = 0.00$	$d = 0.10$	–
	Attention problems	YSR	Youth	$d = 1.00 (+)$	$d = 0.90 (+)$	–
		CBCL	Parent	$d = 0.30$	$d = 0.50$	–
	Sustained attention	D2 Test of Attention	Youth	$d = 0.60 (+)$	$d = 1.10 (+)$	–
Social outcomes:						
Social problems	YSR	Youth	$d = 0.60 (+)$	$d = 0.50 (+)$	–	
	CBCL	Parent	$d = 0.20$	$d = 0.30$	–	
Social behavior	CSBQ	Parent	$d = -0.10$	$d = 0.40$	–	
Bögels et al. (2014)	Internalizing outcomes:					
	Internalizing problems	CBCL	Parent	$d = 0.45 (+)$	$d = 0.47 (+)$	–
De Bruin et al. (2015)	Externalizing outcomes:					
	Externalizing problems	CBCL	Parent	$d = 0.31 (+)$	$d = 0.37 (+)$	–
Haydicky et al. (2015) <sup>a</sup>	Mindfulness	MAAS – A	Youth	$d = -0.26$	$d = -0.02$	–
	Internalizing outcomes:					
	Worry	PSWQ	Youth	$d = -0.04$	$d = 0.28$	–
	Rumination	RRS	Youth	$d = 0.34$	$d = 0.92 (+)$	–
	Well-being	WHO-5	Youth	$d = 0.55 (+)$	$d = 0.63 (+)$	–
	Externalizing outcomes:					
	Autism core symptoms	AQ	Youth	$d = -0.04$	$d = 0.06$	–
			Parent	$d = 0.09$	$d = -0.15$	–
Haydicky et al. (2015) <sup>a</sup>	Social outcomes:					
	Social responsiveness	SRS	Parent	$d = -0.01$	$d = 0.33$	–
	Internalizing outcomes:					
	Internalizing problems	RCADS	Youth	$d = 0.26$	$d = 1.01 (+)$	–
			Parent	NR	$d = 0.49$	–
	Anxiety	RCADS	Youth	$d = 0.25$	$d = 1.02 (+)$	–
			Parent	NR	$d = 0.37$	–
	Depression	RCADS	Youth	$d = 0.38$	$d = 0.64 (+)$	–
			Parent	NR	$d = 0.55$	–
	Externalizing outcomes:					
	ODD	Conners	Youth	$d = -0.45$	$d = 0.21$	–
			Parent	NR	$d = 0.45$	–
CD	Conners	Youth	NR	$d = 0.46$	–	
		Parent	$d = 0.70 (+)$	$d = 0.32$	–	
Hyperactivity/impulsivity	Conners	Youth	NR	$d = 0.16$	–	
		Parent	NR	$d = 0.41$	–	

(Continued)

TABLE 3 | Continued

Study	Outcomes	Measure	Reporter	Within group results		Between group results (Pre-post)
				Pre-post	Pre-follow up <sup>^</sup>	
Jones et al. (2018)	Cognitive outcomes:					
	Inattention	Conners	Youth	NR	$d = 0.12$	–
			Parent	$d = 0.62$	$d = 0.20$	
	Learning problems	Conners	Youth	NR	$d = -0.64$	–
			Parent	$d = 0.46$	$d = 0.29$	
	Executive function	Conners	Parent	$d = 0.36$	$d = 0.24$	–
	Social outcomes:					
	Peer relations	Conners	Parent	$d = 1.07 (+)$	$d = 0.02$	–
	Family relations	Conners	Youth	$d = -0.34$	$d = 0.31$	–
	Externalizing outcomes:					
Behavior problems	SDQ	Parent	$d = -0.14$	–	–	
Social outcomes:						
Prosocial behavior	SDQ	Parent	$d = 0.04$	–	–	
Lo et al. (2017a)	Externalizing outcomes:					
Behavior problems	ECBI	Parent	–	–	NR (ns)	
Behavior severity	ECBI	Parent	–	–	NR (ns)	
Lo et al. (2017b)	Internalizing outcomes:					
Internalizing problems	CBCL	Parent	–	–	$d = 0.46 (+)$	
Externalizing outcomes:						
Externalizing problems	CBCL	Parent	–	–	$d = 0.29 (+)$	
ADHD symptoms	SWAN	Parent	–	–	$d = 0.63 (+)$	
Executive function <sup>b</sup>	CANT Conflict monitoring	Youth	–	–	$d = 0.41 (+)$	
Mann et al. (2016)	Externalizing outcomes:					
Behavior problems	SDQ	Parent	–	–	$d = 0.60 (+)$ (4 mo.)	
Meppelink et al. (2016)	Internalizing outcomes:					
Internalizing problems	CBCL	Parent	$d = 0.34 (+)$	$d = 0.31 (+)$	–	
Externalizing outcomes:						
Externalizing problems	CBCL	Parent	$d = 0.22 (+)$	$d = 0.37 (+)$	–	
Cognitive outcomes:						
Attention problems	CBCL	Parent	$d = 0.26 (+)$	$d = 0.42 (+)$	–	
Neece (2014) [including Lewallen and Neece (2015); Xu (2017); Chan and Neece (2018)]	Internalizing outcomes:					
Internalizing problems	CBCL	Parent	–	–	$d = -0.13$	
Emotional reactivity	CBCL	Parent	–	–	$d = -0.31$	
Anxious/depressed	CBCL	Parent	–	–	$d = -0.25$	
Somatic complaints	CBCL	Parent	–	–	$d = 0.24$	
Withdrawn/depressed	CBCL	Parent	–	–	$d = -0.04$	
Sleep problems	CBCL	Parent	–	–	$d = 0.28$	
DSM Affective problems	CBCL	Parent	–	–	$d = 0.57$	
DSM Anxiety problems	CBCL	Parent	–	–	$d = -0.20$	
Emotion dysregulation <sup>c</sup>	DCS	Observer	$\beta = 0.27, sr^2 = 0.06$	–	–	
Emotion regulation <sup>d</sup>	ERC	Parent	$d = 0.12$	–	–	
Externalizing outcomes:						
Externalizing problems	CBCL	Parent	–	–	$d = 0.45$	
Aggressive behavior	CBCL	Parent	–	–	$d = 0.30$	
DSM ADHD problems	CBCL	Parent	–	–	$d = 0.85 (+)$	
DSM ODD	CBCL	Parent	–	–	$d = 0.20$	

(Continued)

TABLE 3 | Continued

Study	Outcomes	Measure	Reporter	Within group results		Between group results (Pre-post)
				Pre-post	Pre-follow up <sup>^</sup>	
	Cognitive outcomes:					
	Attention problems	CBCL	Parent	–	–	$d = 0.71$
	DSM Developmental problems	CBCL	Parent	–	–	$d = 0.17$
	Social outcomes <sup>e</sup> :	SSIS				
	Self-control		Parent	$d = 0.54 (+)$	–	–
			Secondary Informant	$d = 0.36 (+)$		
			Teacher	$d = 0.59 (+)$		
	Communication		Parent	$d = 0.03$	–	–
			Secondary Informant	$d = 0.10$		
			Teacher	$d = 0.75 (+)$		
	Cooperation		Parent	$d = -0.03$	–	–
			Secondary Informant	$d = 0.12$		
			Teacher	$d = 0.83 (+)$		
	Assertion		Parent	$d = -0.24$	–	–
			Secondary Informant	$d = 0.74 (+)$		
			Teacher	$d = 0.48 (+)$		
	Responsibility		Parent	$d = 0.18$	–	–
			Secondary Informant	$d = 0.19$		
			Teacher	$d = 0.58 (+)$		
	Empathy		Parent	$d = 0.61 (+)$	–	–
			Secondary Informant	$d = 0.27$		
			Teacher	$d = 0.58 (+)$		
	Engagement		Parent	$d = 0.61 (+)$	–	–
			Secondary Informant	$d = 0.19$		
			Teacher	$d = 0.82 (+)$		
Potharst et al. (2017)	Internalizing outcomes:					
	Positive affect	IBQ-R	Parent	$d = 0.48 (+)$	$d = 0.51 (+)$	–
	Regulating	IBQ-R	Parent	$d = 0.35$	$d = 0.06$	–
	Negative emotionality	IBQ-R	Parent	$d = 0.25$	$d = 0.19$	–
Potharst et al. (2018)	Internalizing outcomes:					
	Well-being	WHO-5	Parent	$d = 0.30 (+)$	$d = 0.11$	–
	Externalizing outcomes:					
	Behavior problems	SDQ	Parent	$d = 0.61 (+)$	$d = 0.41 (+)$	–
Racey et al. (2017)	Internalizing outcomes:					
	Depression	BDI-II	Youth	NR (+) <sup>f</sup>	–	–
	Rumination	RRS	Youth	NR (+) <sup>f</sup>	–	–
	Self-compassion	SCS	Youth	NR (+) <sup>f</sup>	–	–
	De-centring	EQD	Youth	NR (+) <sup>f</sup>	–	–
Ridderinkhof et al. (2017)	Mindfulness	CAMM <sup>g</sup>	Youth	$d = 0.02$	$d = 0.37; d = 0.01 (1 \text{ yr.})$	
	Internalizing outcomes:					
	Internalizing problems	YSR <sup>g</sup>	Youth	$d = 0.13$	$d = 0.50; d = 0.59 (1 \text{ yr.})$	–
		CBCL	Parent	$d = 0.35 (+)$	$d = 0.38 (+); d = 0.63 (+) (1 \text{ yr.})$	–
	Rumination	RRS <sup>g</sup>	Youth	$d = 0.44 (+)$	$d = 0.71 (+); d = -0.27 (1 \text{ yr.})$	–
	Stress	CSQ-CA	Youth	$d = 0.20$	$d = 0.63 (+); d = 0.25 (1 \text{ yr.})$	–
	Sleep problems	CSRQ	Youth	$d = 0.06$	$d = 0.28; d = 0.12 (1 \text{ yr.})$	–
	Well-being	WHO-5	Youth	$d = 0.35$	$d = 0.40; d = 0.46 (+) (1 \text{ yr.})$	–

(Continued)



TABLE 3 | Continued

Study	Outcomes	Measure	Reporter	Within group results		Between group results (Pre-post)
				Pre-post	Pre-follow up <sup>^</sup>	
van der Oord et al. (2012)	Externalizing outcomes:					
	Externalizing problems	YSR <sup>g</sup>	Youth	$d = 0.20$	$d = 0.56 (+); d = 0.61 (+) (1 \text{ yr.})$	–
		CBCL	Parent	$d = 0.21 (+)$	$d = 0.43 (+); d = 0.42 (+) (1 \text{ yr.})$	–
	Cognitive outcomes:					
	Attention problems	YSR <sup>g</sup>	Youth	$d = 0.22$	$d = 0.57 (+); d = 0.68 (+) (1 \text{ yr.})$	–
		CBCL	Parent	$d = 0.32 (+)$	$d = 0.44 (+); d = 0.58 (+) (1 \text{ yr.})$	–
	Social outcomes:					
	Social responsiveness	SRS	Parent	$d = 0.32 (+)$	$d = 0.33 (+); d = 0.51 (+) (1 \text{ yr.})$	–
	Externalizing outcomes:					
	Inattention	DBDRS	Parent	$d = 0.80 (+)$	$d = 0.80 (+)$	–
van de Weijer-Bergsma et al. (2012)	Hyperactivity	DBDRS	Parent	$d = 0.56 (+)$	$d = 0.59 (+)$	–
			Teacher	NR (ns)	NR (ns)	
	ODD	DBDRS	Parent	NR (ns)	NR (ns)	–
			Teacher	NR (ns)	NR (ns)	
	Mindfulness	MAAS	Youth	$d = 0.10$	$d = -0.10; d = 0.50 (16 \text{ wks.})$	–
	Internalizing outcomes:					
	Internalizing problems	YSR	Youth	$d = 0.10$	$d = 0.20; d = 0.70 (16 \text{ wks.})$	–
		CBCL	Mother	$d = 0.10$	$d = 0.00$	–
			Father	$d = 0.40$	$d = 0.50$	
			Teacher	$d = 0.20$	–	
Fatigue	FFS	Youth	$d = 0.00$	$d = 0.20; d = -0.10 (16 \text{ wks.})$	–	
Happiness	SHS	Youth	$d = -0.50$	$d = -0.40; d = -0.20 (16 \text{ wks.})$	–	
Externalizing outcomes:						
Externalizing problems	YSR	Youth	$d = -0.10$	$d = 0.50; d = 0.90 (16 \text{ wks.})$	–	
	CBCL	Mother	$d = -0.21$	$d = 0.10$	–	
		Father	$d = 0.20 (+)$	$d = 0.30 (+)$		
		Teacher	$d = 0.20$	–		
Cognitive outcomes:						
Attention problems	YSR	Youth	$d = 0.50$	$d = 0.90 (+); d = 1.0 (16 \text{ wks.})$	–	
	CBCL	Mother	$d = 0.10$	$d = 0.30$	–	
		Father	$d = 0.60$	$d = 1.50 (+)$		
		Teacher	$d = 0.30$	–		
Metacognitive problems	BRIEF	Mother	$d = -0.30$	$d = 0.00$	–	
		Father	$d = 1.00$	$d = 1.80 (+)$		
		Teacher	$d = 0.20$	–		
Behavior regulation problems	BRIEF	Mother	$d = -0.20$	$d = 0.10$	–	
		Father	$d = 0.10$	$d = 0.60 (+)$		
		Teacher	$d = -0.50$	–		
Reaction time	ANT	Youth	$d = -0.20$	$d = -0.10; d = -0.70 (16 \text{ wks.})$		
Sustained attention <sup>h</sup>	ANT	Youth	$d = 0.20 \text{ to } d = 0.40$	$d = 0.80 (+); d = 0.40 \text{ to } d = 0.50 (16 \text{ wks.})$		
Impulsivity <sup>j</sup>	ANT	Youth	$d = 0.00 \text{ to } d = 0.50 (+)$	$d = 0.30 \text{ to } d = 0.70; d = 0.10 \text{ to } d = 0.70 (16 \text{ wks.})$		
Zhang et al. (2017)	Externalizing outcomes:					
Behavior problems	ECBI	Parent	$d = 0.25$	–	–	
Behavior severity	ECBI	Parent	$d = 0.36 (+)$	–	–	

(Continued)

TABLE 3 | Continued

Study	Outcomes	Measure	Reporter	Within group results		Between group results (Pre-post)
				Pre-post	Pre-follow up <sup>^</sup>	
	Cognitive outcomes:					
	Metacognitive problems	BRIEF	Parent	$d = 0.00$	–	–
	Behavior regulation problems	BRIEF	Parent	$d = 0.01$	–	–
	Sustained attention <sup>j</sup>	Tea-CH	Youth	$d = -0.24$ to $d = 0.76$	–	–
	Selective/focussed attention <sup>k</sup>	Tea-CH	Youth	$d = 0.80$ to $d = 1.53$ (+)	–	–
	Attentional control/switching <sup>l</sup>	Tea-CH	Youth	$d = -0.16$ to $d = 0.81$	–	–
	Inattention <sup>m</sup>	CCPT	Youth	$d = -0.43$ to $d = 2.29$ (+)	–	–
	Impulsivity <sup>n</sup>	CCPT	Youth	$d = -0.73$ to $d = 0.81$	–	–
	Vigilance <sup>o</sup>	CCPT	Youth	$d = -0.13$	–	–
	Sustained attention <sup>p</sup>	CCPT	Youth	$d = 0.28$	–	–

For within-group results, effect size is reported as a positive number if there was an improvement in the outcome, and as a negative number if there was a deterioration. For between-group results, effect size is reported as a positive number if the outcome improved more in the mindfulness group than the control group; + indicates effect size is significant,  $p < 0.05$ ; <sup>^</sup>, 8 week follow up, unless otherwise indicated; NR, not reported by study authors; ns, not significant; <sup>a</sup> the follow-up effects reported by Haydicky et al. (2015) are post-follow up; <sup>b</sup> only the conflict monitoring effect is included, as effects for alerting, orienting, response time, and accuracy were reported only as non-significant; <sup>c</sup> Emotion dysregulation effect is reported in Chan and Neece (2018); <sup>d</sup> Emotion regulation is reported in Xu (2017); <sup>e</sup> Social skills are reported in Lewallen and Neece (2015); <sup>f</sup>  $d$  not reported, but mean change reported as significant; <sup>g</sup> these measures were only completed by adolescents  $\geq 11$  years; <sup>h</sup> Sustained attention measured by “misses” measures of Amsterdam Neuropsychological Tasks (ANT; De Sonneville, 1999); <sup>i</sup> Impulsivity measured by “false alarms” measures of ANT; <sup>j</sup> Sustained attention measured by Score1, Sky Search DT, Walk Do Not Walk, and Code Transmission subtests of the Test of Everyday Attention for Children (Tea-CH; Manly et al., 2001); <sup>k</sup> Selective/focussed attention measured by Sky Search and Map Mission subtests of Tea-CH; <sup>l</sup> Attentional control/switching measured by Creature Counting and Opposite Worlds subtests of Tea-CH; <sup>m</sup> Inattentions measured by detectability, omissions, commissions, Hit reaction time (HRT) statistics, and variability measures in Conners’ Continuous Performance Test, 3rd edition (CCPT; Conners, 2015); <sup>n</sup> Impulsivity measured by commissions, perseverations, and HRT measures of CCPT; <sup>o</sup> Vigilance measured by HRT block change measure of CCPT; <sup>p</sup> Sustained attention measured by HRT block change measure of CCPT; MAAS, Mindful Attention and Awareness Scale (Brown and Ryan, 2003); YSR, Youth Self-Report (Achenbach, 1991a); CBCL, Child Behavior Checklist (Achenbach, 1991b); SHS, Subjective Happiness Scale (Lyubomirsky and Lepper, 1999); SCRS, Self Control Rating Scale (Kendall, 1979); CSBQ, Children’s Social Behavior Questionnaire (Luteijn et al., 2000); MAAS-A, Mindful Attention and Awareness Scale—Adolescent (Brown et al., 2011); PSWQ, Penn State Worry Questionnaire (Meyer et al., 1990); Ruminative Response Scale (Nolen-Hoeksema, 2000); WHO-5, World Health Organization-Five Wellbeing Index (Bech et al., 2003); SRS, Social Responsiveness Scale (Constantino and Gruber, 2005); AQ, Autism Questionnaire (Auyeung et al., 2008); RCADS, Revised Child Anxiety and Depression Scale (Chorpita et al., 2000); Conners, Conners 3rd Edition (Conners, 2008); SDQ, Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (Goodman, 1997); ECBI, Eyberg Child Behavior Inventory (Robinson et al., 1980); SWAN, Strengths and Weaknesses of ADHD Symptoms and Normal Behaviors Rating Scale (Swanson et al., 2012); CANT, Child Attention Network Test (Posner and Petersen, 1990); DCS, Dysregulation Coding System (Hoffman et al., 2006); ERC, Emotion Regulation Checklist (Shields and Cicchetti, 1997); SSIS, Social Skills Improvement System (Gresham and Elliott, 2008); IBQ-R, Infant Behavior Questionnaire-Revised, Very Short Form (Putnam et al., 2014); BDI-II, Beck Depression Inventory (Beck et al., 1996); SCS, Self Compassion Scale (Neff, 2015); EQD, Experiences Questionnaire (Fresco et al., 2007), Decentering subscale; CAMM, Children’s Acceptance and Awareness Measure (De Bruin et al., 2013); CSQ-CA, Chronic Stress Questionnaire for Children and Adolescents (De Bruin et al., 2017); CSRQ, Chronic Sleep Reduction Questionnaire (Meijer, 2008); DBDRS, Disruptive Behavior Disorder Rating Scale (Pelham et al., 1992); FFS, Flinders Fatigue Scale (Gradisar et al., 2007); BRIEF, Behavior Rating Inventory of Executive Function (Goia et al., 2000).

Exploratory moderator analyses were conducted in relation to both parenting stress and overall youth outcomes. For potential categorical moderators, a mixed effects model was used (random-effects within subgroups and fixed-effects across subgroups). The variance of true effect sizes across studies ( $T^2$ ) was estimated by pooling within-group estimates of  $T^2$  for each subgroup and applying the common estimate to all studies. This method of estimating  $T^2$  is recommended by Borenstein et al. (2009) to increase the accuracy of the estimate, when the number of studies within any subgroup is low. Categorical moderators were tested only when there were four or more studies per subgroup (Fu et al., 2011). To test significance, the  $Q$  statistic was calculated between subgroups ( $Q_B$ ). Random-effects meta-regression analyses were used to investigate the relationship between parent or youth outcomes and potential continuous moderators.

## Risk of Bias in Individual Studies

A risk of bias assessment was conducted for each included study. Bias is defined as the tendency for study results to vary from those that would have been obtained from a well-designed and run RCT on the same participant group (Sterne et al., 2016). The domains assessed for potential bias were confounding (for non-randomized studies only), selection, misclassification, performance, attrition, detection and reporting bias. For RCTs, the Cochrane Risk of Bias tool for Randomized Controlled Trials (Higgins et al., 2011) was used to assess selection bias. However, for all other domains, the Cochrane Risk of Bias in Non-randomized Studies of Interventions (ROBINS-I) tool (Sterne et al., 2016) was used, as that tool appeared more suited to assessing studies of psychological interventions where blinding of participants, researchers and outcome assessments are not possible. For the non-randomized studies, the ROBINS-I tool was

used to assess all domains. All included studies were assessed for potential bias independently by both the first author and the graduate student who assisted with study selection. There was 94% agreement in bias ratings, with differences resolved by discussion.

## RESULTS

### Study Selection

**Figure 1** shows the process of study selection and exclusion. The database searches identified 2,628 studies, 928 of which were duplicates. Forty-seven studies were retained after the title and abstract screening. Twenty-three of these studies were excluded based on the full text review, for the reasons set out in **Figure 1**. Of the 24 retained studies, three studies (Neece, 2014; Lewallen and Neece, 2015; Xu, 2017) appeared to be reporting data from an overlapping participant group. Confirmation was sought by email from the corresponding author but was not received. Lewallen and Neece (2015) and Xu (2017) reported on relevant outcomes that were not included in Neece (2014), but the outcome data for these two studies are reported in **Table 3** under Neece (2014), to reflect the apparent non-independence of the outcomes reported in these two studies. When the initial search conducted in August 2018 was updated in October 2018, five additional studies were identified by the first author. Two of these, Chan and Neece (2018) and Neece et al. (2018), also appeared to report data from a group of participants overlapping with those used in Neece (2014). As these two new studies and Neece (2014) all reported on parenting stress, the parenting stress outcomes from Chan and Neece (2018) and Neece et al. (2018) were not included in this review. The child outcome reported by Chan and Neece (2018) was not included in Neece (2014), so this child outcome is reported in **Table 3**, also under Neece (2014). However, the child outcomes reported in Neece et al. (2018) were also reported in Neece (2014), so this study was not included in this review. Accordingly, 25 independent studies are included in this review.

### Study Characteristics

Twenty-five independent studies reported on the effects of a mindfulness intervention for parents. Eighteen studies delivered mindful parenting interventions, five studies delivered MBSR or Mindfulness-based Cognitive Therapy (MBCT) interventions specifically adapted for parents, and four studies (which appeared to use overlapping participant groups) delivered MBSR to parents. Where adaptations were made to standard MBSR or MBCT programs to reflect the fact that the participants were parents, these adaptations were minor. For example, trainers encouraged participants to reflect on how key concepts of mindfulness, such as acceptance and non-reactivity, might apply to their interactions with their children.

All studies delivered the intervention in a group format. Sixteen studies delivered the intervention to parents (including one mother/infant group), while nine delivered parallel mindfulness training to both parents and their children (parents and children in separate groups). In all studies, the majority of participating parents (between 55 and 100%) were mothers. In

relation to parental mental health, four studies involved parents referred for mental health treatment for their own mental health condition or parenting difficulties, while another six studies involved parents identified as being vulnerable to mental health difficulties due to socio-demographic factors or past psychiatric history, or who self-reported experiencing parenting stress. The remaining studies did not report on parental mental health status. In relation to youth mental health, the children of participating parents were identified as having mental health diagnoses or difficulties in 20 of the 25 studies. The mean age of children of participating parents ranged from 0.86 to 16.4 years, and 16 studies involved parents with children whose mean age was < 12 years.

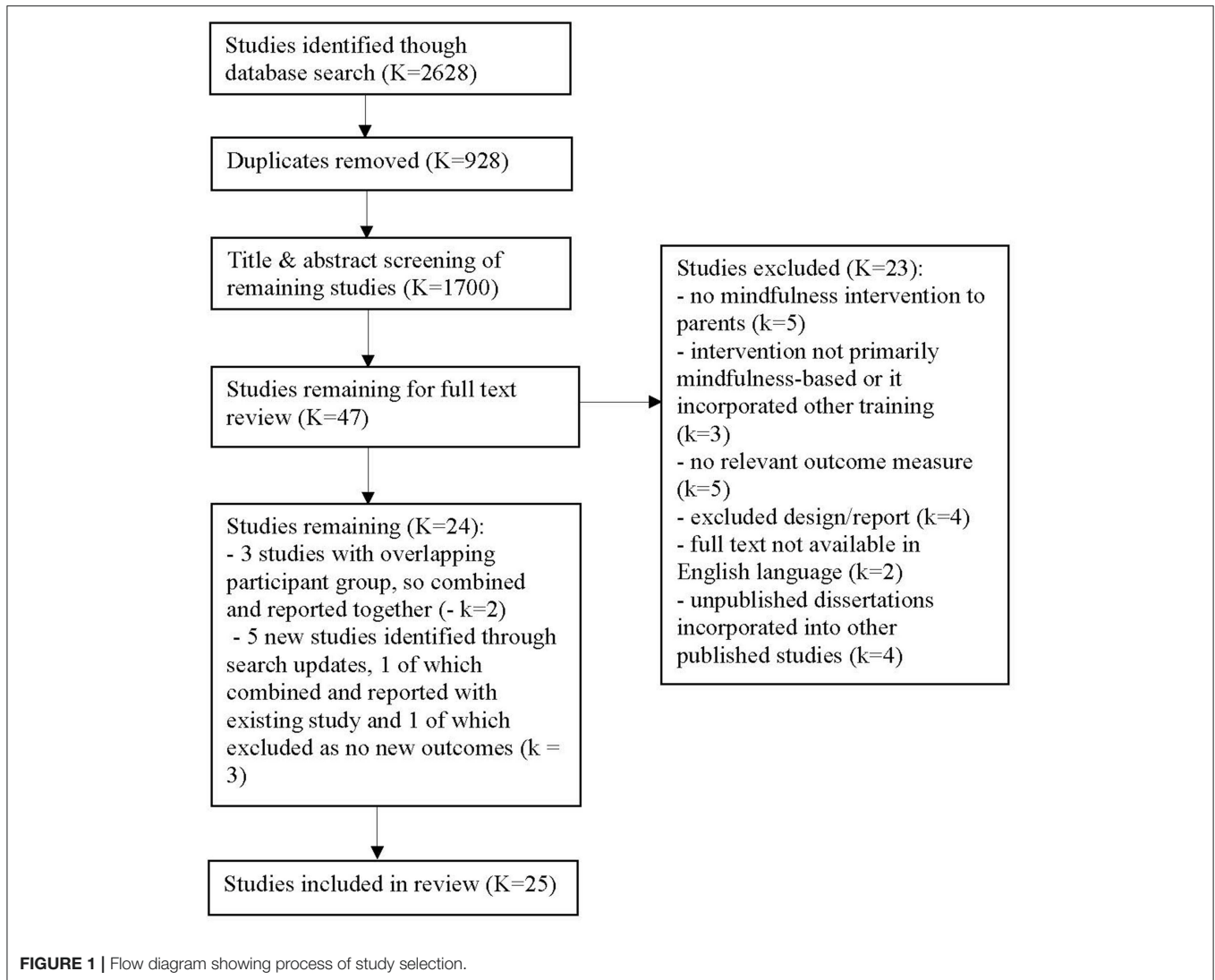
Sample sizes ranged from 11 to 180 participants. Of the 25 independent studies, 18 utilized a single group design and seven used a control group. Of the controlled trials, six were RCTs. Two RCTs used an active control group (skills-based parent training and parent education), while the remainder used passive controls such as waitlist or usual care groups. Individual session length ranged from 1.5 h (ten studies) to 3 h (three studies). Eight of the ten studies that delivered parallel parent and child interventions used the shorter 1.5 h sessions. The interventions were delivered over 6–12 weeks, and involved total hours of training between 9 and 27 h.

### Parenting Stress

#### Within-Group Differences

Nineteen studies reported data enabling a quantitative analysis of within-group parenting stress. **Figure 2** shows the effect sizes for pre- to post-intervention change in parenting stress, with a summary Hedges'  $g = 0.34$  ( $p < 0.001$ , 95% CI [0.23–0.45]). Heterogeneity was moderate to high ( $Q = 66.96$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ,  $I^2 = 70\%$ ). **Figure 2** reports composite mother/father data for all studies where mothers and fathers participated. In the one study that reported mother and father outcomes separately, the authors found a significant, moderate to large reduction in parenting stress for fathers and a moderate but insignificant increase for mothers (van de Weijer-Bergsma et al., 2012). At first follow-up, which was generally 2 months post-intervention, the summary effect size for change in parenting stress was  $g = 0.53$  ( $p < 0.001$ , 95% CI [0.45–0.61]) and heterogeneity was low ( $Q = 6.62$ ,  $p = 0.76$ ,  $I^2 = 0\%$ ). The difference between pre-post and pre-follow up effect sizes was significant ( $Q_B = 7.32$ ,  $df = 1$ ,  $p = 0.007$ ). Two studies also reported a 1-year post-intervention follow up. While no quantitative analysis was conducted for this time-point, the reported small to moderate reductions in parenting stress from pre-intervention remained significant [ $d = 0.53$  in Potharst et al. (2017) and  $d = 0.28$  in Ridderinkhof et al. (2017)].

Moderator analyses were conducted in relation to youth clinical status (clinical vs. non-clinical), youth age (child under 12 years vs. adolescent 12 years and over), and intervention groups (parent only mindfulness group vs. parallel parent and youth mindfulness groups). There were insufficient studies to conduct this analysis in respect of parent clinical status. No significant difference was found between the parenting stress effect sizes for parents attending a mindfulness program based on youth clinical status ( $g = 0.33$ ,  $p < 0.001$ , 95% CI [0.19–0.48]) for clinical youth



and  $g = 0.35$ ,  $p < 0.001$ , 95% CI [0.16–0.53] for non-clinical youth;  $Q_B = 0.01$ ,  $df = 1$ ,  $p = 0.906$ ). Similarly, there was no difference in effects between parents of children ( $g = 0.31$ ,  $p < 0.001$ , 95% CI [0.21–0.42]) and adolescents ( $g = 0.21$ ,  $p = 0.005$ , 95% CI [0.06–0.35]) ( $Q_B = 1.33$ ,  $df = 1$ ,  $p = 0.248$ ). However, the effect size for studies using parent-only intervention groups ( $g = 0.35$ ,  $p < 0.001$ , 95% CI [0.24–0.46]) was greater than that for studies using parallel intervention groups ( $g = 0.18$ ,  $p = 0.001$ , 95% CI [0.07–0.29]) ( $Q_B = 4.37$ ,  $df = 1$ ,  $p = 0.036$ ). A meta-regression of total intervention hours on parenting stress effect size provided no evidence of a dose-response relationship between total hours spent in the mindfulness intervention and parenting stress ( $\beta = 0.01$ ,  $SE = 0.01$ ,  $p = 0.26$ ).

Parenting stress was assessed by all studies as an outcome variable rather than as a potential mediator in the relationship between mindfulness in parenting and youth outcomes. One study (Haydicky et al., 2015) examined the direction of relationship between mindful parenting and parenting stress, by using cross-lagged panel correlations. Pre-test mindful parenting

scores were significantly negatively correlated with post-test parenting stress [ $r_{(14)} = -0.52$ ,  $p = 0.02$ ], but pre-test parenting stress was not significantly correlated with post-test mindful parenting [ $r_{(14)} = -0.13$ ,  $p = 0.311$ ].

### Between-Group Differences

Five studies reported data enabling a comparison of post-intervention differences in parenting stress between mindfulness and control groups. The summary effect for the difference between these two groups indicated that the mindfulness groups experienced larger reductions in parenting stress than the control groups. This difference was of a small to moderate size ( $g = 0.44$ ,  $p = 0.005$ , 95% CI [0.13–0.74]), with moderate heterogeneity ( $Q = 8.11$ ,  $p = 0.087$ ,  $I^2 = 51\%$ ). Of these controlled studies, two compared a mindful parenting intervention with another active intervention. Ferraioli and Harris (2013) reported that mindful parenting resulted in a larger reduction in parenting stress than skills-based parent training ( $d = 1.59$ ). Chaplin et al. (2018) reported that mindful parenting outperformed

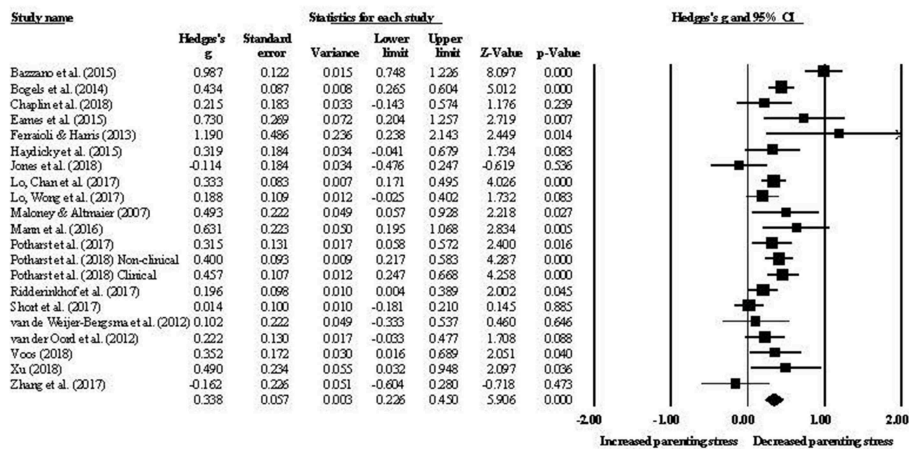


FIGURE 2 | Pre- to post-intervention change in parenting stress.

parent education, in two out of the three parenting stress domains measured ( $d = 0.53$  and  $d = 0.59$ ). Although not specifically about parenting stress, one study measured parents' heart rate variability and reported an effect of  $d = 0.00$  for the comparison between the mindfulness and control groups (Lo et al., 2017b).

## Youth Psychological Outcomes Within-Group Differences

The summary effect sizes for the youth internalizing, externalizing, cognitive, and social domains are presented in Table 4. Post-intervention effect sizes for each domain were small, and all were maintained at 2-month follow-up.

Figure 3 shows the effect sizes for overall youth outcomes. The summary effect size was  $g = 0.27$  ( $p < 0.001$ , 95% CI [0.21–0.33]), with low to moderate heterogeneity ( $Q = 23.06$ ,  $p = 0.147$ ,  $I^2 = 26\%$ ). At 2-month follow-up, the summary effect was  $g = 0.35$  ( $p < 0.001$ , 95% CI [0.27–0.42]), with low heterogeneity ( $Q = 10.45$ ,  $p = 0.402$ ,  $I^2 = 4\%$ ). There was no difference between pre-post and pre-follow up effects ( $Q_B = 2.53$ ,  $df = 1$ ,  $p = 0.112$ ).

Despite the relatively low level of heterogeneity in youth outcome effects, moderator analyses were conducted in respect of youth age (child vs. adolescent) and intervention groups (parent only vs. parallel parent and youth groups). There were insufficient studies to conduct this analysis in respect of parent or youth clinical status. No differences were found in overall youth outcome effect sizes for children ( $g = 0.26$ ,  $p < 0.001$ , 95% CI [0.20–0.33]) and adolescents ( $g = 0.30$ ,  $p = 0.001$ , 95% CI [0.13–0.48]) ( $Q_B = 0.17$ ,  $df = 1$ ,  $p = 0.682$ ) or for studies using parent only interventions ( $g = 0.26$ ,  $p < 0.001$ , 95% CI [0.18–0.33]) and studies using parallel parent and youth interventions ( $g = 0.31$ ,  $p < 0.001$ , 95% CI [0.21–0.41]) ( $Q_B = 0.71$ ,  $df = 1$ ,  $p = 0.399$ ).

A meta-regression of total intervention hours on overall youth outcomes was conducted, but no evidence was found of a relationship between these two variables ( $\beta = 0.00$ ,  $SE = 0.00$ ,  $p = 0.844$ ). For those studies reporting both parenting

stress and youth outcome data, a series of meta-regressions were conducted to examine whether change in parenting stress predicted youth outcome effect sizes. Change in parenting stress predicted change in both youth externalizing ( $\beta = 0.48$ ,  $SE = 0.21$ ,  $p = 0.02$ ) and cognitive outcomes ( $\beta = 1.13$ ,  $SE = 0.56$ ,  $p = 0.046$ ), but not internalizing outcomes ( $\beta = -0.32$ ,  $SE = 0.30$ ,  $p = 0.282$ ). The same analysis was not performed for the social domain as there were too few studies. Figures 4, 5 show the relationships between change in parenting stress and externalizing outcomes, and change in parenting stress and internalizing outcomes, respectively.

Insufficient data was available for a quantitative analysis of youth mindfulness, but the effects reported by five studies for this variable (see Table 3) ranged from  $d = -0.26$  to  $d = 0.50$ . A small number of studies included objective measures of youth outcomes, such as attention tests. In two studies, the effects obtained in the attention tests were broadly in line with those obtained from self-reports. For example, in Bögels et al. (2008), the youth-reported effect for attention problems was  $d = 1.00$ , then  $d = 0.90$  at follow up, while the effect reported based on the D2 Attention Test was  $d = 0.60$ , rising to  $d = 1.10$  at follow up. Similarly, in van de Weijer-Bergsma et al. (2012), the youth-reported effect for attention problems was  $d = 0.50$ , while the computerized sustained attention task effects ranged between  $d = 0.20$  and  $d = 0.40$ . In Zhang et al. (2017), the effects reported for several aspects of attention were variable. For example, the effects in various subtests of sustained attention ranged from  $d = -0.24$  to  $d = 0.76$ .

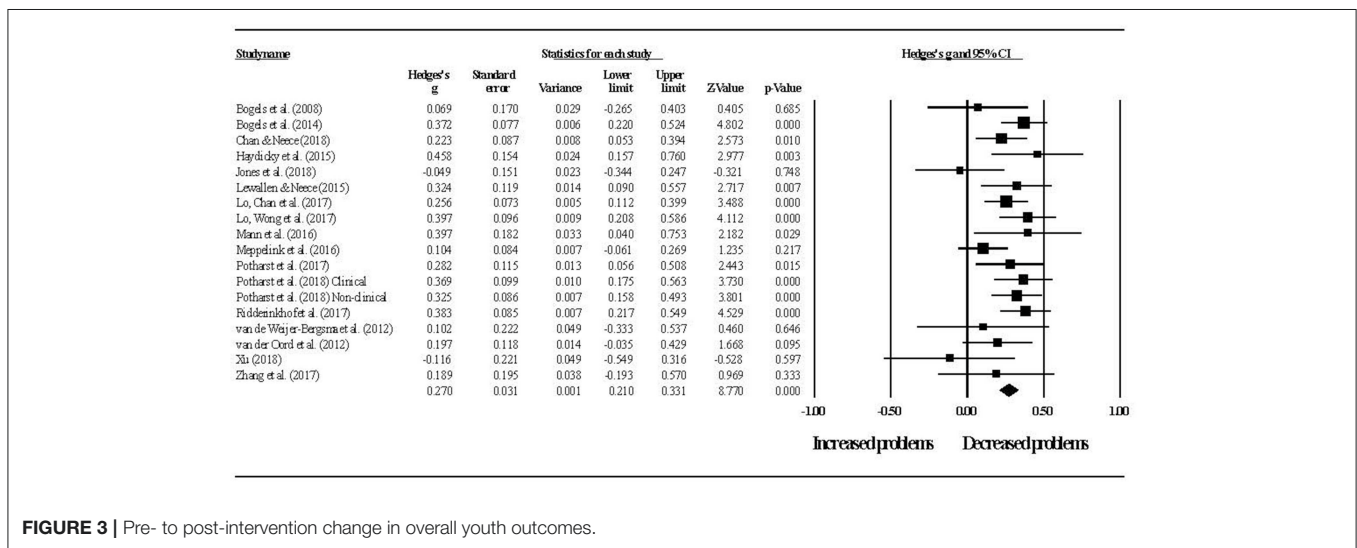
Only one study reported mother and father data on youth outcomes separately (van de Weijer-Bergsma et al., 2012), and two studies obtained teacher reports of youth outcomes (Lewallen and Neece, 2015, reported in Table 3 under Neece, 2014; van de Weijer-Bergsma et al., 2012). Teacher-reported effects were similar to parent-reported effects in van de Weijer-Bergsma et al. However, in Lewallen and Neece, teachers reported significant improvements in all seven of the social domains



**TABLE 4 |** Within-group effects for four youth outcome domains.

Outcome domain	Point of assessment	Sample		Effect size			Heterogeneity	
		K	n	Hedges' g	p-value	95% CI	I <sup>2</sup>	p-value
Internalizing	Post-intervention	12	438	0.29	<0.001	0.21–0.36	22%	0.229
	Follow-up#	9	397	0.33	<0.001	0.22–0.44	46%	0.065
Externalizing	Post-intervention	14	621	0.26	<0.001	0.18–0.34	37%	0.079
	Follow-up	10	414	0.39	<0.001	0.31–0.47	7%	0.379
Cognitive	Post-intervention	7	231	0.27	0.001	0.11–0.42	52%	0.051
	Follow-up	5	144	0.40	<0.001	0.24–0.55	24%	0.263
Social <sup>^</sup>	Post-intervention	5	158	0.28	<0.001	0.14–0.43	25%	0.254

K, number of studies included in the effect size calculation; n, total number of participants in the studies included in the relevant domain; #, all follow up assessments are 2 months post-intervention, except for one study included in the Externalizing domain, which conducted follow-up 4 months post-intervention; <sup>^</sup>, follow-up data were not analyzed for the Social outcomes domain, as only three studies reported follow-up social outcome data.



**FIGURE 3 |** Pre- to post-intervention change in overall youth outcomes.

measured, whereas parents reported significant improvements in only three domains.

**Between-Group Differences**

No quantitative comparison of the effectiveness of mindfulness interventions to control groups for youth outcomes was performed, as data required for this analysis was only available for three studies. However, of the studies that reported a between-group effect, the mindfulness group outperformed wait list for externalizing problems in two out of five studies [*d* = 0.29 in Lo et al. (2017b) and *d* = 0.60 in Mann et al. (2016)] and for internalizing problems in one out of three studies [*d* = 0.46 in Lo et al. (2017b)]. There were no studies comparing mindfulness with an active control, for youth psychological outcomes.

**Publication Bias**

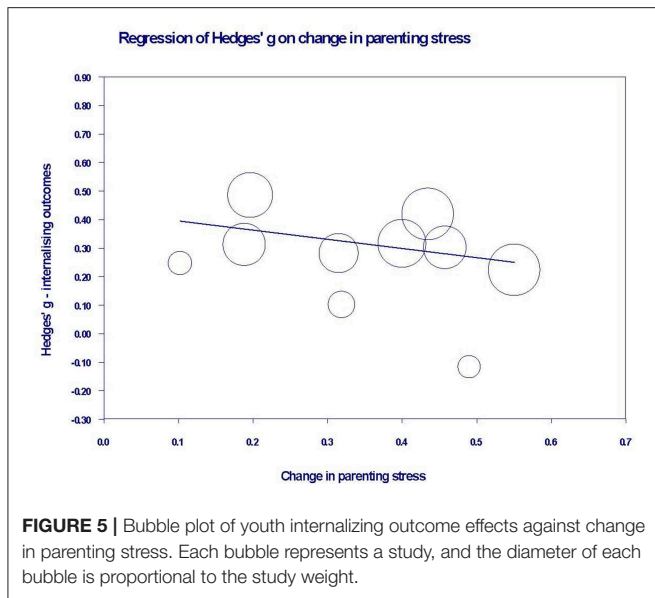
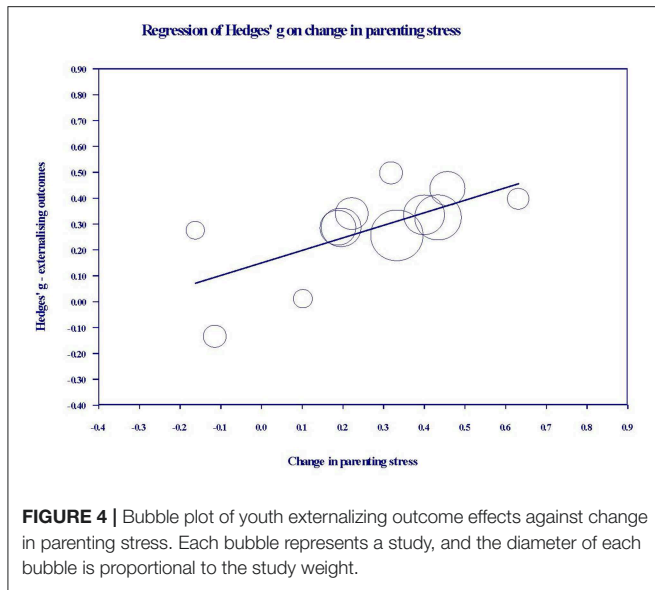
To assess the impact of any publication bias on the observed effects in this review, the trim and fill method (Duval and Tweedie, 2000) was used to give unbiased estimates of effect size. For within-group parenting stress, the imputed summary effect size was *g* = 0.33, which was equal to the observed summary

effect size of *g* = 0.33. As shown in **Figure 6**, the trim and fill analysis indicated that no studies were required to be trimmed in order for the funnel plot to be symmetric, that is for the impact of any publication bias to be removed. In relation to between-group parenting stress, the trim and fill analysis produced an imputed summary effect size of *g* = 0.32 (compared to the observed *g* = 0.35), with one study needing to fall on the left of the summary effect for plot symmetry. The impact of any publication bias in relation to parenting stress effects appears likely to be trivial.

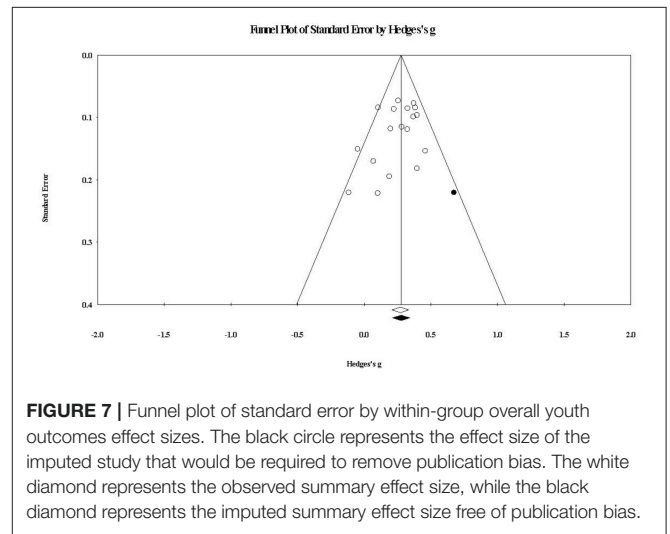
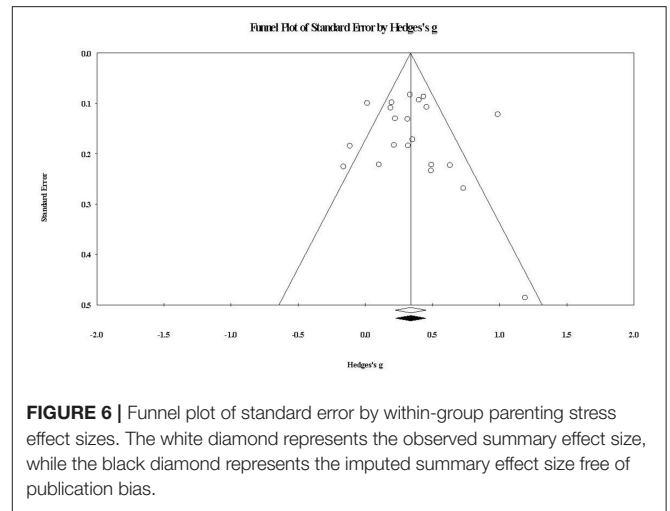
For within-group overall youth outcomes, the funnel plot at **Figure 7** shows that one study would need to fall on the right side of the observed summary effect for plot symmetry. The imputed effect size was *g* = 0.281 (compared to the observed *g* = 0.276), again suggesting a trivial impact of publication bias.

**Assessment of Study Quality**

**Table 5** contains risk of bias assessments for each reviewed study. Overall, risk of bias was serious. For the non-randomized intervention studies, this was largely driven by the serious risk of confounding bias, which ROBINS-I notes may occur if



any prognostic variable also predicts the intervention received by a participant. Due to the lack of randomization, it is considered likely to be an issue for most if not all non-randomized studies (Sterne et al., 2016). For both non-randomized studies and RCTs, the majority of studies were considered at serious risk of detection bias because of the reliance on subjective self- or parent-about-youth outcome reports, which are considered reasonably vulnerable to the influence of knowledge about the intervention. Bias due to potential misclassification was an issue in many studies, as most reports did not state their pre-intervention position as to the minimum number of sessions a participant would need to attend to be considered as having completed the intervention. Bias may be introduced if the minimum number of sessions was changed



after the study commenced. Many studies also reported limited information regarding items such as session attendance rates of treatment completers, homework completion and instructor training, making it difficult to properly assess the risk of performance bias.

## DISCUSSION

This review examined 25 independent studies of mindfulness interventions delivered to parents. We systematically evaluated the effectiveness of these interventions in reducing parenting stress and improving youth psychological outcomes. The results of the review show that mindfulness interventions for parents are associated with small to moderate immediate and maintained reductions in parenting stress. Reductions in parenting stress are greater for parents who attend mindfulness intervention groups than for those who attend control groups. Results also show that mindfulness interventions for parents are associated with small immediate and maintained improvements

**TABLE 5 |** Risk of bias assessment for reviewed studies.

Study	Confounding bias <sup>a</sup>	Selection bias <sup>b</sup>	Misclassification bias	Performance bias	Attrition bias	Detection bias	Reporting bias
Bazzano et al. (2015)	Serious	Low	Moderate	Unclear	Low	Serious	Moderate
Bögels et al. (2008)	Serious	Low	Moderate	Low	Low	Serious	Moderate
Bögels et al. (2014)	Serious	Low	Moderate	Low	Low	Serious	Moderate
Corthorn (2018)	Serious	Low	Unclear	Unclear	Moderate	Serious	Moderate
Chan and Neece (2018) <sup>#</sup>	–	Low	Unclear	Low	Low	Serious	Moderate
Chaplin et al. (2018) <sup>#</sup>	–	Unclear	Unclear	Unclear	Low	Serious	Moderate
De Bruin et al. (2015)	Serious	Low	Unclear	Low	Low	Serious	Moderate
Eames et al. (2015)	Serious	Low	Low	Unclear	Serious	Serious	Moderate
Ferraioli and Harris (2013) <sup>#</sup>	–	Unclear	Unclear	Low	Moderate	Serious	Moderate
Haydicky et al. (2015)	Serious	Low	Moderate	Low	Moderate	Serious	Moderate
Jones et al. (2018)	Serious	Low	Unclear	Unclear	Moderate	Serious	Moderate
Lewallen and Neece (2015)	Serious	Low	Unclear	Unclear	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Lo et al. (2017a) <sup>#</sup>	–	Unclear	Unclear	Low	Low	Serious	Moderate
Lo et al. (2017b) <sup>#</sup>	–	Low	Unclear	Low	Low	Moderate	Low
Maloney and Altmaier (2007)	Serious	Low	Unclear	Unclear	Unclear	Serious	Critical
Mann et al. (2016) <sup>#</sup>	–	Low	Moderate	Low	Moderate	Serious	Low
Meppelink et al. (2016)	Serious	Low	Unclear	Unclear	Moderate	Serious	Moderate
Neece (2014) <sup>#</sup>	–	Low	Unclear	Low	Low	Serious	Moderate
Potharst et al. (2017)	Serious	Low	Unclear	Low	Moderate	Serious	Moderate
Potharst et al. (2018)	Serious	Low	Moderate	Low	Moderate	Serious	Moderate
Racey et al. (2017)	Serious	Low	Moderate	Moderate	Critical	Critical	Moderate
Ridderinkhof et al. (2017)	Serious	Low	Unclear	Moderate	Moderate	Serious	Moderate
Short et al. (2017)	Serious	Low	Unclear	Moderate	Low	Serious	Moderate
van de Weijer-Bergsma et al. (2012)	Serious	Low	Unclear	Low	Moderate	Moderate	Serious
van der Oord et al. (2012)	Serious	Low	Low	Low	Low	Serious	Moderate
Voos (2017)	Serious	Low	Moderate	Unclear	Moderate	Serious	Moderate
Xu (2017)	Serious	Low	Unclear	Unclear	Serious	Serious	Moderate
Zhang et al. (2017)	Serious	Low	Unclear	Moderate	Low	Serious	Moderate

<sup>#</sup>RCT. For all RCTs in this table, the terms used to describe the level of bias have been changed from "Low," "High," and "Unclear" (used in the RoB tool), to "Low," "Moderate," "Serious," "Critical," and "Unclear," to reflect the terms and judgment guidelines used in ROBINS-I; <sup>a</sup>not relevant for RCTs; <sup>b</sup>For RCTs, the assessment of selection bias asks (1) whether there was random sequence generation and (2) whether there was allocation concealment. In this table, only one risk assessment is reported for RCTs under this bias domain, as the level of risk assessed for these two aspects of selection bias was equal for each of the reviewed RCTs.

for youth across internalizing, externalizing, cognitive, and social domains of psychological functioning. Improvements in youth externalizing and cognitive outcomes are predicted by reductions in parenting stress, but no relationship was found between youth internalizing outcomes and parenting stress. There were insufficient studies to test the relationship between parenting stress and social outcomes.

## Parenting Stress

For parenting stress, the small within-group reduction ( $g = 0.34$ ) obtained immediately after intervention rose to a moderate reduction ( $g = 0.53$ ) 2 months later. This suggests that the positive impact on parenting stress of the mindfulness intervention continued after the intervention ended. Two studies also measured parenting stress 1 year after the intervention, both reporting the maintenance of small to moderate reductions in parenting stress at that point. The five controlled studies reviewed showed that mindfulness interventions have a small to moderate

advantage ( $g = 0.44$ ) over active and waitlist controls in reducing parenting stress. These results, together with the finding that pre-test mindful parenting scores are negatively correlated with post-test parenting stress, but not vice versa (Haydicky et al., 2015), provide initial evidence that mindfulness interventions for parents contribute to reduced parenting stress.

To place our findings regarding the parenting stress effect size into context, we sought to compare the current results against those obtained in other meta-analyses. We were unable to find meta-analyses of mindfulness or other interventions that aimed at lowering parenting stress specifically. However, Lundahl et al. (2006a) assessed parental emotional adjustment, which incorporated parenting stress. They reported a moderate within-group improvement in that outcome, in their review of parent programs to reduce child abuse. The post-intervention effect in that study ( $d = 0.53$ ) was larger than in the present study ( $g = 0.34$ ). This may have been because the measure of parental emotional adjustment included a number of negative emotional



states, such as anger, in addition to parenting stress. It is therefore possible that the effect size was driven by improvements in emotional states other than parenting stress.

We also sought to compare the advantage we found for mindfulness interventions over control groups to that found for other parent interventions. Again, we were unable to find any published meta-analyses concerning parenting stress as a stand-alone outcome. However, Lundahl et al. (2006b) reviewed the effects of parent training programs on a composite parenting outcome, which included parenting stress. Lundahl et al. (2006b) defined behavioral training programs as those teaching parents to reinforce their children's positive behavior and ignore or punish poor behavior. Non-behavioral programs were defined as those that did not teach these specific skills, and included programs aimed at improving parent-child communication or altering child-related cognitions. Based on this definition, mindfulness interventions are non-behavioral programs, and indeed the advantage over controls in the present study ( $g = 0.44$ ) is similar to that found by Lundahl et al. (2006b) for non-behavioral parent programs ( $d = 0.48$ ). The advantage of behavioral programs over controls was slightly larger ( $d = 0.53$ ).

Interestingly, this review also found that the reduction in parenting stress was greater at follow up than post-intervention. This is in contrast to the pattern reported for behavioral parent training by Lee et al. (2012), who found a reduced effect at follow-up for a composite parenting outcome that included parenting stress. Similarly, the effects of cognitive behavioral therapy for general stress are maintained at follow up, but not increased (Hofmann et al., 2012). The present results suggest, therefore, that mindfulness interventions provide durable outcomes for parents, and compare favorably in this respect to behavioral parent training and cognitive behavioral therapy.

Heterogeneity in relation to parenting stress is moderate to high, indicating variance in the true effect size across studies. Possible reasons for this variability were tested through categorical moderator analyses and meta-regression. The reduction in parenting stress was not moderated by either youth age or clinical status, or the length of the mindfulness course. This suggests that parents acquire generic skills in mindfulness programs lasting from 9 to 27 h, that they are able to apply in various parenting environments, and across their child's development. In contrast, the reduction in parenting stress was greater when the intervention was delivered only to parents, than when it was delivered to parallel parent and youth groups. This result was surprising, since it is reasonable to expect that training both parents and their children in mindfulness would contribute to better outcomes, given the bi-directionality of parent and child factors (Branje et al., 2010; Neece, 2014). To investigate this result further, the characteristics of the two subgroups were checked. Of the six studies in the parallel interventions subgroup, five involved youth diagnosed with ADHD. However, amongst the 15 studies in the parent-only intervention subgroup, only three involved parents whose children had been diagnosed with ADHD. Further, these three studies reported only 47, 31, and 7% of the parents' children as having ADHD. While no conclusion can be drawn, it is possible that the smaller reduction in parenting stress amongst parents in the parallel intervention subgroup is

related to their child's diagnosis of ADHD, rather than the fact that both parents and their children received the intervention.

## Youth Outcomes

The results of our review show that mindfulness interventions for parents are associated with improved youth outcomes. The summary effects indicate small, within-group improvements in internalizing ( $g = 0.29$ ), externalizing ( $g = 0.26$ ), cognitive ( $g = 0.27$ ), and social ( $g = 0.28$ ) domains. These improvements are maintained after 2 months for the internalizing ( $g = 0.33$ ), externalizing ( $g = 0.39$ ), and cognitive ( $g = 0.40$ ) domains. There were insufficient studies to conduct a follow-up analysis for the social domain. There were also insufficient controlled studies to conduct a quantitative comparison of intervention groups with controls, for any of the youth outcomes. The results reported by the few studies that included a control group are mixed, with mindfulness groups outperforming waitlist controls in some studies but not others, for both internalizing and externalizing outcomes.

This is the first published meta-analysis regarding the effectiveness of mindfulness interventions for parents in improving youth outcomes. There are, therefore, no equivalent studies to compare the effects found in the present review against. A review of mindfulness interventions delivered to children and adolescents in schools found within-group effects for emotional problems and cognitive performance of  $g = 0.31$  and  $g = 0.68$ , respectively (Zenner et al., 2014). It is possible that the effects reported in that study were larger than those in the present review because the interventions were delivered directly to the children and adolescents, rather than to parents. Looking at other parent-focused interventions, a meta-meta-analysis of studies for treating youth with externalizing disorders obtained effects for youth outcomes (externalizing and internalizing problems combined) of  $d = 0.46$  post-intervention and  $d = 0.49$  at follow-up (Mingebach et al., 2018). The larger improvements found in that review may reflect the fact that the majority of reviewed studies involved behavioral parent training interventions. Mindfulness interventions for parents appear, therefore, to be associated with smaller improvements in youth outcomes than either behavioral parent training or mindfulness interventions for youth.

Heterogeneity in connection with youth outcomes is low to moderate. Mindfulness interventions for parents are associated with equally beneficial outcomes for children and adolescents, whether they attend mindfulness training in parallel with their parents or not, and regardless of the length of the mindfulness course. These results together suggest that even shorter mindfulness programs can result in changes to parental functioning that are positive for youth of any age. Meta-regressions were conducted to check whether change in parenting stress predicted youth outcomes. Greater reductions in parenting stress did predict greater improvements in youth externalizing and cognitive outcomes. This finding is consistent with previous studies showing that parenting stress is related to harsh, over-reactive parenting (Venta et al., 2016), and that harsh parenting predicts later youth behavior problems and poorer attentional regulation (Eisenberg et al., 1999; Rominov et al.,

2016). Therefore, reductions in parenting stress may improve externalizing and cognitive outcomes.

Unlike externalizing and cognitive outcomes, reductions in parenting stress did not predict improvements in youth internalizing outcomes. There are a number of possible explanations for this. While youth externalizing problems can be aversive to parents and contribute to higher parenting stress (Eisenberg et al., 1999; Neece et al., 2012), youth internalizing problems tend to be subtle and non-aversive (Eisenberg et al., 1999). Accordingly, it is possible that parents of youth with internalizing problems have a lower baseline level of parenting stress than do parents of youth with externalizing problems. In this case, we would expect a mindfulness intervention for parents of youth with internalizing problems to have less of an impact on parenting stress. Any relationship between change in parenting stress and change in internalizing problems may therefore be too small to detect. Mindfulness interventions for parents could also affect youth internalizing outcomes through a pathway other than parenting stress. For example, greater parental warmth and acceptance toward children are associated with lower youth internalizing problems (Yap and Jorm, 2015). As mindful parenting involves compassion, emotional warmth, and non-judgmental acceptance toward a child (Duncan et al., 2009, 2015), mindfulness interventions may improve internalizing outcomes by promoting these attitudes in parents. Internalizing problems are also associated with difficulties with emotion regulation (Suveg and Zeman, 2004). For example, greater use by parents of adaptive emotion regulation strategies, such as cognitive reappraisal, are associated with lower youth anxiety (Wald et al., 2018). Since mindful parenting is also associated with greater parental self-regulation (Duncan et al., 2009; Ridderinkhof et al., 2017), mindfulness interventions could reduce youth internalizing problems by facilitating healthier forms of emotional regulation in parents.

## Methodological Limitations

There are several limitations affecting the strength of the evidence provided by both this review and the individual studies reviewed. At the review level, the number of studies available for inclusion is still small. For this reason, we treated studies of mindful parenting interventions and studies of other mindfulness-based interventions delivered to parents as a single group. However, it is not currently known whether these two types of mindfulness intervention have different outcomes for parents or youth, or whether they exert their effects through different pathways. The number of available studies also had implications for testing potential moderators, such as parent clinical status. It may also have affected our ability to detect significant moderators and covariates. For example, although we found no relationship between the length of the mindfulness course and either parenting stress or youth outcomes, some other meta-analyses have found dose-response relationships for a range of outcomes (Khouri et al., 2013; Zenner et al., 2014; cf. Vollestad et al., 2012). In general, due to the relatively small number of studies in this review, some caution should be applied to the interpretation of the moderator and meta-regression analyses. As more research is published on mindfulness interventions

for parents, future reviews with greater power will provide more accurate information regarding significant moderators or covariates.

At the individual study level, small sample sizes are likely to have contributed to a lack of statistical power to detect significant effects in a number of studies. A scan of **Tables 2, 3** reveals several moderate to large effects, both post-intervention and at follow-up, that are reported as non-significant. The availability of small samples may have been a reason for the single group design used in most of the reviewed studies. Due to the lack of randomization to intervention or control groups, we cannot conclude that the reported effects are caused by the mindfulness intervention. This is particularly the case for the various outcomes (anxiety, depression, well-being, rumination, and executive functioning) that significantly improved at follow up, but not immediately post-intervention. This longer term effect is consistent with the self-sustaining change proposed to be the result of mindfulness practice (Dumas, 2005). However, childhood is an ongoing period of development in which changes may occur in various domains of functioning over time, for many reasons. When more time has passed, it is more likely that extraneous variables may have contributed to changes in outcomes, making the causal link between the intervention and the effect more tenuous.

All studies were judged to have at least a serious risk of bias. Whilst this was partly due to the lack of randomization noted above, the subjective reporting of most outcomes in each study was also an issue. In the context of mindfulness interventions, which parents must invest a significant amount of time and effort to attend, relying on parent reports may increase the risk of detection bias. Although it is difficult to address this issue in studies in which many outcomes must be subjectively reported, obtaining reports from different sources, such as mothers, fathers, youth and teachers, and obtaining objective measures if possible, may give a more complete picture. For example, Lewallen and Neece (2015) found that teachers reported significant improvements in more social domains than parents did. This suggests that youth outcomes may differ across contexts. Similarly, the differences between mothers and fathers in post-intervention parenting stress (van de Weijer-Bergsma et al., 2012) might indicate a systematic difference in how mothers and fathers respond to a mindfulness intervention. Finally, assessment of treatment adherence and integrity was problematic in many studies, as limited information was reported regarding session attendance rates, homework completion or instructor training. Lack of detailed implementation-related data appears to be a common issue in connection with mindfulness interventions (Vollestad et al., 2012; Zou et al., 2018).

## Future Directions

The results of this review show that further research on mindfulness interventions for parents is desirable. Future studies are needed to address the methodological limitations identified above. For example, there is evidence that variables such as therapist experience with mindfulness (Khouri et al., 2013), amount of home practice (Parsons et al., 2017) and total time of mindfulness training (Zenner et al., 2014) can moderate outcomes. Inclusion of more information on these

variables would allow reviewers to investigate more potential moderators. In addition, randomizing participants to control and intervention groups would allow firmer conclusions to be drawn about whether mindfulness in parenting played a causal role in relevant outcomes.

Use of randomized controlled studies would also allow comparisons to be made between mindfulness interventions and other active interventions such as behavioral parent training. For youth with externalizing problems, behavioral parent training is an effective and widely used intervention (Dretzke et al., 2009). However, some parents, such as those with their own psychopathology, benefit less from behavioral parent training than others (Maliken and Katz, 2013). This may be because these parents find it difficult to apply new parenting skills in stressful situations with their child and revert to old patterns of responding in those situations (Siegel and Hartzell, 2004). Given its focus upon reducing parenting stress, mindfulness-based interventions might be of greater benefit to these families than behavioral parent training.

The majority of studies involved parents with children under 12 years, or parents managing youth externalizing problems. Very few studies included parents of youth with internalizing problems. It is therefore recommended that additional research be done in community samples or in clinical samples of families experiencing youth internalizing problems. As no relationship was found between parenting stress and youth internalizing outcomes, research with these samples could investigate whether mindfulness in parenting is associated with potential mediators other than parenting stress. These could include parental factors known to be associated with youth internalizing problems. Finally, relatively few studies examined outcomes for families with adolescents and only one of these (Corthorn, 2018) included parents of adolescents without a clinical diagnosis. Adolescence is associated with increased negative affect (Kim et al., 2001) and conflict (Laursen et al., 1998), and may be a time of potentially

stressful change in the parent-child relationship (Duncan et al., 2009). Importantly, it is also a time when many psychological disorders are first diagnosed (Copeland et al., 2009). Research could usefully address the question of whether mindfulness interventions for parents of adolescents are effective as a preventive intervention for adolescent psychological problems.

## CONCLUSION

The results of the present review show that mindfulness interventions for parents are associated with reduced parenting stress for parents of both children and adolescents. They are also associated with improved youth psychological functioning across internalizing, externalizing, cognitive, and social domains. Reduced parenting stress predicts improvement in youth externalizing and cognitive outcomes, but not youth internalizing outcomes. Methodological weaknesses in the available literature prevent firm conclusions from being drawn regarding the causal role of mindfulness training for parents in relation to each of these outcomes. Further research is recommended to address limitations in the current literature and questions raised by this review.

## AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

VB designed and conducted the review and meta-analysis and wrote the manuscript. MS and MA reviewed the design and collaborated on editing the manuscript.

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## Appendix A2



### PRISMA 2009 Checklist

Section/topic	#	Checklist item	Reported on page #
<b>TITLE</b>			
Title	1	Identify the report as a systematic review, meta-analysis, or both.	p.1
<b>ABSTRACT</b>			
Structured summary	2	Provide a structured summary including, as applicable: background; objectives; data sources; study eligibility criteria, participants, and interventions; study appraisal and synthesis methods; results; limitations; conclusions and implications of key findings; systematic review registration number.	p.1
<b>INTRODUCTION</b>			
Rationale	3	Describe the rationale for the review in the context of what is already known.	p.3
Objectives	4	Provide an explicit statement of questions being addressed with reference to participants, interventions, comparisons, outcomes, and study design (PICOS).	p.3
<b>METHODS</b>			
Protocol and registration	5	Indicate if a review protocol exists, if and where it can be accessed (e.g., Web address), and, if available, provide registration information including registration number.	n/a
Eligibility criteria	6	Specify study characteristics (e.g., PICOS, length of follow-up) and report characteristics (e.g., years considered, language, publication status) used as criteria for eligibility, giving rationale.	p.3
Information sources	7	Describe all information sources (e.g., databases with dates of coverage, contact with study authors to identify additional studies) in the search and date last searched.	pp.3-4
Search	8	Present full electronic search strategy for at least one database, including any limits used, such that it could be repeated.	p.3
Study selection	9	State the process for selecting studies (i.e., screening, eligibility, included in systematic review, and, if applicable, included in the meta-analysis).	p.4
Data collection process	10	Describe method of data extraction from reports (e.g., piloted forms, independently, in duplicate) and any processes for obtaining and confirming data from investigators.	p.4
Data items	11	List and define all variables for which data were sought (e.g., PICOS, funding sources) and any assumptions and simplifications made.	p.3
Risk of bias in individual studies	12	Describe methods used for assessing risk of bias of individual studies (including specification of whether this was done at the study or outcome level), and how this information is to be used in any data synthesis.	pp.14-15
Summary measures	13	State the principal summary measures (e.g., risk ratio, difference in means).	pp.4, 9
Synthesis of results	14	Describe the methods of handling data and combining results of studies, if done, including measures of consistency (e.g., $I^2$ ) for each meta-analysis.	pp.4, 9



## Appendix A2



### PRISMA 2009 Checklist

Section/topic	#	Checklist item	Reported on page #
Risk of bias across studies	15	Specify any assessment of risk of bias that may affect the cumulative evidence (e.g., publication bias, selective reporting within studies).	p.18
Additional analyses	16	Describe methods of additional analyses (e.g., sensitivity or subgroup analyses, meta-regression), if done, indicating which were pre-specified.	p.14
<b>RESULTS</b>			
Study selection	17	Give numbers of studies screened, assessed for eligibility, and included in the review, with reasons for exclusions at each stage, ideally with a flow diagram.	p.15
Study characteristics	18	For each study, present characteristics for which data were extracted (e.g., study size, PICOS, follow-up period) and provide the citations.	p.15
Risk of bias within studies	19	Present data on risk of bias of each study and, if available, any outcome level assessment (see item 12).	pp.18-19
Results of individual studies	20	For all outcomes considered (benefits or harms), present, for each study: (a) simple summary data for each intervention group (b) effect estimates and confidence intervals, ideally with a forest plot.	pp.5-14
Synthesis of results	21	Present results of each meta-analysis done, including confidence intervals and measures of consistency.	pp.15-18
Risk of bias across studies	22	Present results of any assessment of risk of bias across studies (see Item 15).	p.18
Additional analysis	23	Give results of additional analyses, if done (e.g., sensitivity or subgroup analyses, meta-regression [see Item 16]).	pp.15-17
<b>DISCUSSION</b>			
Summary of evidence	24	Summarize the main findings including the strength of evidence for each main outcome; consider their relevance to key groups (e.g., healthcare providers, users, and policy makers).	pp.19-23
Limitations	25	Discuss limitations at study and outcome level (e.g., risk of bias), and at review-level (e.g., incomplete retrieval of identified research, reporting bias).	p.22
Conclusions	26	Provide a general interpretation of the results in the context of other evidence, and implications for future research.	pp.22-23
<b>FUNDING</b>			
Funding	27	Describe sources of funding for the systematic review and other support (e.g., supply of data); role of funders for the systematic review.	p.23

From: Moher D, Liberati A, Tetzlaff J, Altman DG, The PRISMA Group (2009). Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses: The PRISMA Statement. PLoS Med 6(7): e1000097. doi:10.1371/journal.pmed1000097

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# The Interpersonal Mindfulness in Parenting Scale in Mothers of Children and Infants: Factor Structure and Associations With Child Internalizing Problems

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**Objectives:** Mindful parenting, measured by the Interpersonal Mindfulness in Parenting scale (IMP), is beneficial for parents and children. However, the IMP has not been validated in English-speaking parents. Further, little is known about whether mindful parenting is similar in parents of children vs. infants, or how it reduces child internalizing problems. We sought to validate the IMP in English-speaking mothers of children and infants, and to examine relationships between the facets of mindful parenting, child internalizing problems and parent variables related to internalizing.

**Methods:** Using confirmatory factor analyses, we examined the fit of various models of mindful parenting in English-speaking community-recruited mothers of children aged 3–18 years ( $n = 396$ ) and infants aged 0–2 years ( $n = 320$ ). We used regression analyses to investigate relationships between the facets of mindful parenting, child internalizing problems, and parent variables including parental experiential avoidance, unhelpful beliefs about child anxiety and accommodation of child anxiety.

**Results:** Mindful parenting can be measured in English-speaking mothers, using either a 5- or 6-factor, 29-item version of the IMP. These versions of the IMP operate similarly for mothers of children and infants. Child internalizing problems and related parent variables were best predicted by non-judgmental acceptance of parenting in mothers of children, and emotional self-awareness and non-reactivity in mothers of infants.

**Conclusions:** The IMP is a valid measure of mindful parenting in English-speaking mothers of children and infants. Mindful parenting predicts child internalizing problems and related parent variables, suggesting that mindful parenting programs could benefit families of children with internalizing problems, potentially by reducing parental experiential avoidance, unhelpful beliefs about or accommodation of child anxiety.

**Keywords:** IMP, mindful parenting, psychometric properties, experiential avoidance, parental beliefs, parental accommodation, child internalizing, children and infants

## INTRODUCTION

Mindful parenting has been defined as parenting with the aim of paying non-judgmental, non-reactive attention to each moment and interaction with the child (Kabat-Zinn and Kabat-Zinn, 1997). Mindful parents are thought to be able to regulate their parenting behaviors to better support their child's needs (Duncan et al., 2009). Indeed, a recent meta-analysis has shown that mindful parenting interventions are associated with reductions in parenting stress and children's externalizing and internalizing problems (Burgdorf et al., 2019). However, the mechanisms through which mindful parenting programs benefit parents and children are still largely unexplored, particularly in relation to child internalizing problems. To understand these mechanisms, a valid and reliable measurement of the dimensions of mindful parenting is necessary. The Interpersonal Mindfulness in Parenting scale (IMP; Duncan, 2007; Duncan et al., 2009) is the most widely used instrument for that purpose. However, the IMP was originally developed for parents of adolescents (Duncan, 2007) and it has been investigated primarily in relation to child externalizing behaviors (e.g., Haydicky et al., 2015). To date, very little is known about the psychometric properties of the IMP in mothers of infants, or its relationship with parenting behaviors related to child internalizing problems. This study aimed to contribute to a better understanding of these issues.

The first instrument developed to measure the construct of mindful parenting was the 10-item IMP (Duncan, 2007). The IMP was subsequently expanded to a 31-item instrument, which was proposed to involve five dimensions (Duncan et al., 2009): Listening with Full Attention (LFA), Non-judgmental Acceptance of Self and Child (NJA-SC), Compassion for Self and Child (C-SC), Emotional Awareness of Self and Child (EA-SC), and Self-regulation in Parenting (SRP). Although the IMP has been widely used in research since its development, there are currently no published studies validating this proposed five-factor structure in an English-language population.

A small number of studies have explored the factor structure of translated versions of the IMP. The first such study tested a Dutch translation of the IMP in a Dutch community sample of mothers of 12–15-year-old ( $M = 13.3$  years) adolescents (de Bruin et al., 2014). The results did not support Duncan et al.'s proposed 5-factor model. Instead, exploratory and confirmatory factor analyses suggested six factors. The primary difference between de Bruin et al.'s findings and Duncan et al.'s proposed model was that the parent- and child-focussed items relating to compassion, non-judgment and emotional awareness loaded on separate factors, resulting in the six empirically derived dimensions of (1) Listening with Full Attention (LFA), (2) Non-judgmental Acceptance of Parental Functioning (NJAPF), (3) Compassion for the Child (CC), (4) Emotional Awareness of the Child (EAC), (5) Emotional Non-reactivity in Parenting (ENRP), and (6) Emotional Awareness of Self (EAS). In addition, items 3 and 6 were excluded due to low factor loadings, resulting in a 29-item six-factor instrument (de Bruin et al.) Another translation of the IMP was tested in a Portuguese-speaking community group of mothers of 1–18-year-olds ( $M = 5.86$  years) (Moreira and Canavarro, 2017). Exploratory and confirmatory

factor analyses supported the deletion of items 3 and 6, but the findings concerning factor structure were somewhat different from the findings of de Bruin et al. (2014). Listening with Full Attention, Non-judgmental Acceptance of Parental Functioning, Compassion for the Child and Emotional Awareness of the Child contained largely the same items as the Dutch LFA, NJAPF, CC, and EAC factors. However, in this study a new Self-regulation in Parenting (SRP) factor emerged, combining the items from the Dutch ENRP and EAS factors, resulting in a 29-item, five-factor model. Translations of the IMP have also been tested in non-Western countries, including in Hong Kong Chinese parents of 2–19-year-olds (Lo et al., 2018) and Korean parents of 1–18 year-olds (Kim et al., 2018). Numerous items were deleted in both studies, suggesting that the English-language IMP may not easily translate to all other languages or cultures (Lo et al., 2018).

While the differences between the Asian and European studies' findings may be due to linguistic or cultural variations, the differences in the results reported by de Bruin et al. (2014) and Moreira and Canavarro (2017) could partly reflect the differing ages of the children involved in the two studies. Children have different parenting requirements at different developmental stages, such as physical proximity during infancy and autonomy support during adolescence (Karavasilis et al., 2003). It is therefore likely that mindful parenting behaviors differ at different child developmental stages, and separate mindful parenting programs have been offered for parents of infants and children (for example, Potharst et al., 2017). Such differences are not reflected in the current version of the IMP, however. Indeed, some IMP items have limited face validity for parents of pre-verbal children. For example, item 4 ("I listen carefully to my child's ideas, even when I disagree with them") may only be relevant for parents with children who can express themselves verbally. Therefore, the structure of the IMP should be examined separately in parents of pre-verbal infants and parents of children, to clarify whether the IMP operates equivalently for these two groups of parents.

In addition to child age, the nature of the child's difficulties is important when developing mindful parenting programs. To date, mindful parenting interventions have mainly been studied in parents of children with externalizing problems (for example, Haydicky et al., 2015) or with a range of mental health diagnoses (Emerson et al., 2019). They have not yet been studied in parents of children with only internalizing problems. Both parenting stress and over-reactive parenting have been identified as potential mediators of the relationship between mindful parenting and child externalizing problems (Burgdorf et al., 2019; Emerson et al., 2019). However, little is known about potential mediators between mindful parenting and child internalizing problems. Such mediators may include parental overprotectiveness (Yap et al., 2014), experiential avoidance (Emerson et al., 2019), and beliefs about child anxiety (Francis and Chorpita, 2010). Studies investigating which facets of mindful parenting are most closely related to child internalizing problems and associated parent variables are now needed. Such studies may help guide efforts to develop mindful parenting interventions more specifically targeting child internalizing.

Given the growing research interest in mindful parenting programs, the issues raised above regarding the IMP need to be addressed. The first aim of this study was to examine the fit of the model of mindful parenting proposed by Duncan et al. (2009), as well as the two empirically derived models reported by de Bruin et al. (2014) and Moreira and Canavarro (2017), using confirmatory factor analyses (CFAs). We conducted these analyses separately in parents of infants and parents of children, to explore possible differences in the factor structure of the IMP for these two groups of parents. The second aim of the study was to investigate the relationships between the IMP facets suggested by our CFAs, child internalizing problems, and related parent variables. We hypothesized that more mindful parenting would be related to lower child internalizing problems, as well as lower parenting stress, healthier beliefs and less accommodation regarding child anxiety, and lower parental experiential avoidance. We explored which dimensions of mindful parenting would be most strongly associated with these outcomes.

## METHODS

### Participants and Procedure

The study procedures were approved by the relevant institutional Human Research Ethics Committee (approval numbers 183/2019 and 440/2019). A total of 990 participants were recruited from the community, using targeted Facebook advertisements. The advertisement contained a link to the information statement and consent form, hosted on the secure data collection website Qualtrics. People were invited to take part if English was their primary language and they were a parent, or acting in the role of parent, to at least one child aged 0–20 years. There were no exclusion criteria. Participants with more than one child were asked to answer the parenting questions with regard to just one of their children.

From the 990 participants who provided informed consent, 765 participants completed the demographic data and the IMP (Duncan et al., 2009). To increase consistency with de Bruin et al. (2014) and Moreira and Canavarro (2017), we removed the data of fathers ( $n = 41$ ) and the data of parents of children aged 19–20 years of age ( $n = 8$ ), leaving data for the confirmatory factor analyses from 716 mothers (or other female caregivers) of children aged 0–18 years. The age of the mothers or other female caregivers of infants ranged from 22 to 56 years ( $M = 32.25$ ;  $SD = 4.79$ ) and their infants' mean age was 0.90 years ( $SD = 0.78$ ). Mothers or other female caregivers of children were aged between 26 and 58 years ( $M = 39.21$ ,  $SD = 6.60$ ), and the mean age of their children was 8.23 years ( $SD = 4.21$ ). **Table 1** contains further information on sample characteristics. A subset ( $n = 245$ ) of these 716 mothers was also asked to complete a set of measures of child internalizing and related parent variables. Questionnaires were presented in random order to reduce order effects. This resulted in a different sample size completing the various questionnaires due to participant drop-out.

As shown in **Table 1**, there were several demographic differences between the two groups of mothers. Compared to mothers of children, more mothers of infants identified as a

primary carer rather than as an equal carer, and families of infants generally had fewer children. A slightly higher proportion of mothers of infants also reported having previously been diagnosed with a mental health condition and having a history of practicing mindfulness. Amongst mothers who reported a history of mindfulness practice, slightly more mothers of children than infants reported that they currently practiced mindfulness at least monthly.

### Measures

**Demographics and Mindfulness Practice Questionnaire:** demographic information was collected from participants on the variables presented in **Table 1**. Participants were also asked whether they had ever engaged in formal mindfulness or other form of meditation or contemplative practice. Response options were one or more of mindfulness, yoga, tai chi, other (participant to specify) or none. Participants who indicated some form of past formal practice were asked to indicate approximately how long they had engaged in that practice. For the purposes of the analyses in this paper, answers were dichotomized into “<1 year” and “1 year or more.” For those currently practicing, the reported frequency of practice was dichotomized into “less than monthly” and “monthly or more.” The data reported in this paper relate only to history, length and frequency of formal mindfulness practice.

**Interpersonal Mindfulness in Parenting scale (IMP; Duncan, 2007, Duncan et al., 2009):** the 31-item IMP measures mindfulness in the parenting context. The items are rated using a 5-point Likert-type scale, where 1 = *Never True*, 2 = *Rarely True*, 3 = *Sometimes True*, 4 = *Often True* and 5 = *Always True*. A total score is calculated by summing the items, with 14 items (1, 5, 9–15, 17, 19, 23, 26, and 29) reverse coded. Higher scores indicate more mindful parenting.

**Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ; Goodman, 1997):** The SDQ assesses child mental health in children aged 2–18 years. Five subscales relating to emotional problems, peer problems, behavioral problems, hyperactivity, and prosocial behavior are made up of five questions each, with 3-point response scales, where 0 = *Not true*, 1 = *Somewhat true* and 2 = *Certainly true*. In this study, we report only on the Emotional Problems and Peer Problems subscales, combined into an Internalizing Problems scale, where a higher score indicates more problems. The Internalizing Problems scale has good convergent and discriminant validity and internal consistency in general community samples (Goodman et al., 2010).

**Depression Anxiety Stress Scales, 21 item version (DASS-21; Lovibond and Lovibond, 1995):** the DASS-21 was used to measure parental distress. The DASS-21 is a self-report measure with three scales assessing the emotional states of depression, anxiety and stress. The items are answered on a 4-point Likert-type scale, ranging from 0 (*Did not apply to me at all*) to 3 (*Applied to me very much or most of the time*). Higher scores indicate greater distress. The psychometric properties of the DASS-21 have been reported to be excellent in several studies (e.g., Antony et al., 1998; Crawford and Henry, 2003).

**Parental Attitudes, Beliefs and Understanding about Anxiety scale (PABUA; Wolk et al., 2016):** the PABUA is a 21-item

**TABLE 1** | Sample characteristics ( $N = 716$ ).

	Parents of children, $n = 396$		Parents of infants, $n = 320$		Difference between groups	
	$n$	%	$n$	%	$\chi^2$ ( $df$ )	$\Phi_c$
<b>Child gender</b>					1.78 (2)	0.05
Male	161	50.3	192	48.6		
Female	201	50.9	159	49.7		
Other	2	0.5				
<b>Parent relation to child</b>					0.34 (1)	0.02
Biological mother	386	97.5	314	98.1		
Other female caregiver	10	2.5	6	1.9		
<b>Caregiver role</b>					9.57 (2)**	0.12
Primary carer	271	68.4	252	78.8		
Equal carer <sup>a</sup>	121	30.6	66	20.6		
Secondary carer	4	1.0	2	0.6		
<b>No. children in family</b>					205.16 (3)***	0.54
1	75	18.9	228	71.3		
2	198	50.0	70	21.9		
3	100	25.3	14	4.4		
$\geq 4$	23	5.8	8	2.5		
<b>Parent country of residence</b>					3.00 (1)	0.07
Australia	304	78.6	232	73.0		
Other	83	21.6	86	29.1		
<b>Parent highest level of education</b>					0.02 (2)	0.01
Post-graduate or Bachelor degree	290	73.8	236	73.8		
Associate degree or vocational training	53	13.5	44	13.8		
Secondary school or other	50	12.8	40	12.5		
<b>Parent previous mental health diagnosis</b>					5.36 (1)*	0.09
No	248	62.6	173	54.1		
Yes	148	37.4	147	45.9		
<b>History of formal mindfulness practice</b>					4.74 (1)*	0.08
Yes	144	36.4	142	44.4		
No	252	63.6	178	55.6		
<b>Length of mindfulness practice</b>					2.35 (1)	0.08
<1 year	64	46.0	68	48.9		
$\geq 1$ year	75	54.0	71	51.1		
<b>Frequency of mindfulness practice</b>					4.85 (1)*	0.11
<Monthly	50	36.0	80	57.6		
$\geq$ Monthly	89	64.0	59	42.4		

$\Phi_c$  is Cramer's  $V$  effect size, where 0.1–0.3 is a small effect, 0.3–0.5 a moderate effect, and  $>0.5$  a large effect (Cohen, 1988); <sup>a</sup>Equal carer is a parent who reports sharing the care of their child approximately equally with another person; \* $p \leq 0.05$ ; \*\* $p \leq 0.01$ ; \*\*\* $p \leq 0.001$ .

self-report measure of a parent's beliefs and attitudes about their child's anxiety, consisting of three scales. Overprotection measures parent beliefs about protecting their child from anxiety, with items such as "It is important that I protect my child from feeling anxious." Approach measures beliefs regarding child autonomy and exposure to anxiety, for example "A way to help my child feel less anxious is to encourage him/her to face his/her fears." Finally, Distress measures parent distress in connection with their child's anxiety, for example "It is hard for me to be with my child when he/she is nervous." Items 4, 12, 16, and 21, which form the Approach scale, are reverse scored. The items are answered on a 5-point scale, from 1 = Strongly

disagree to 5 = Strongly agree, with higher scores indicative of less helpful beliefs about anxiety. The PABUA has good convergent and divergent validity, with adequate to good internal consistency (Wolk et al., 2016).

Parental Acceptance and Action Questionnaire (PAAQ; Cheron et al., 2009): the PAAQ is a 15-item self-report measure of experiential avoidance in parenting. Items are rated on a 7-point scale from 1 = Never true to 7 = Always true, with higher scores indicating more experiential avoidance. Items 1, 5–7, 10, and 11 are reverse scored. The items are summed to create a parental experiential avoidance total score, which measures a parent's unwillingness to witness their child's negative



feelings and their inability to manage their own reactions to those negative feelings. Data regarding the PAAQ's concurrent validity and adequate internal consistency have been reported by Cheron et al. (2009).

Parental Accommodation Scale (PAS; Meyer et al., 2018): The 5-item PAS-Behavior scale measures the frequency of parental behaviors aimed at helping their child to lessen or avoid anxiety, with items such as “*I help my child avoid things or perform behaviors so that he or she feels better immediately.*” The items are answered on a 4-point scale ranging from 0 = *Never/almost never* to 3 = *Always/almost always*. Higher scores indicate more unhelpful accommodating behaviors. Meyer et al. (2018) demonstrated the PAS-Behavior scale's convergent validity and good internal consistency.

The parents also completed three other questionnaires that were not included in the current report. The internal consistency (Cronbach's alpha) of the child and parent outcome measures used in this study, other than for the PABUA Approach scale, are reported below in **Table 5**. The PABUA Approach scale was excluded from the analyses due to poor internal consistency ( $\alpha = 0.28$  for mothers of infants,  $\alpha = 0.41$  for mothers of children).

## Statistical Analyses

The confirmatory factor analyses were conducted using AMOS version 25. To check whether the data met the assumption of multivariate normality of distribution underlying structural equation modeling, we screened for multivariate kurtosis and outliers. In both groups of mothers, screening revealed mild multivariate kurtosis and no clear outliers based on an examination of the squared Mahalanobis distance for each case. Goodness-of-fit was assessed against several indices in addition to the chi-square test. Good and adequate fit were indicated, respectively, by normed chi-square ( $X^2/df$ )  $\leq 2$  and  $\leq 5$ , a comparative fit index (CFI)  $\geq 0.95$  and  $\geq 0.90$ , root-mean-square error of approximation (RMSEA)  $\leq 0.05$  and  $\leq 0.08$ , and standardized root mean square residual (SRMR)  $\leq 0.08$  and  $\leq 0.10$  (Byrne, 2010). We then used SPSS version 26 to conduct a series of simultaneous multiple regression analyses to determine the unique contribution of individual IMP subscales to the prediction of scores on measures of child internalizing and related parent variables.

## RESULTS

### Confirmatory Factor Analysis

We began by testing the fit of the Duncan et al. (2009), de Bruin et al. (2014), and Moreira and Canavarro (2017) models in mothers of children. The fit indices are in **Table 2**. Based on all the indices used, Duncan et al.'s proposed model (Model C.1) was a poor fit to the data. The factor loadings for items 3 and 6 were low (0.07 and 0.21, respectively) and the loading for item 3 was non-significant. Due to the poor model fit, we did not examine modification indices for this model.

Next, we examined the fit of the de Bruin et al. model. We began by specifying a six-factor model containing all 31

IMP items (Model C.2), to check whether items 3 and 6 remained problematic. The factor loadings for items 3 (0.08) and 6 (0.04) were again low and non-significant. We therefore excluded those items and specified a 29-item six-factor model (Model C.3). The fit indices ranged from adequate to good, and the fit improved compared to Model C.2. The modification indices for Model C.3 suggested covariance between the errors for two items loading on NJAPF (items 18 and 20). Because both items were related to acceptance of parenting mistakes, we decided to allow these errors to covary (Model C.4). Model fit significantly improved and the fit indices ranged from adequate to good. The modification indices for Model C.4 indicated a cross-loading for item 24, on the CC factor. Item 24 refers to the parent paying close attention to the child when together. As this is similar to several CC items which refer to the parent being attentive to the child in different ways, we made this modification. The revised model (Model C.5) was a reasonably good fit to the data and an improvement on Model C.4. There were no further substantial or theoretically justified error covariances or model misspecifications indicated by the modification indices.

We then tested the 29-item, five-factor Moreira and Canavarro model (Model C.6) in mothers of children. Model C.6 was an adequate to good fit to the data. All factor loadings were significant. The loading for item 10 was 0.36, with all others  $>0.56$ . Like the de Bruin et al. model, modification indices suggested an error covariance for items 18 and 20. When this modification was made (Model C.7), the fit improved. The modification indices for Model C.7 suggested the same cross-loading for item 24 on CC. When that cross-loading was allowed, the re-specified model (Model C.8) was again an improvement on the previous model. For Model C.8, modification indices suggested covariance between the errors for items 2 and 21, which both load on the SRP factor. As these items are similar and both relate to pausing before acting, we allowed this error covariance. This resulted in Model C.9, whose indices indicated an adequate to good fit to the data and were a significant improvement on the previous model. No further meaningful modifications were indicated.

In mothers of infants, we followed the same process as set out above. **Table 3** contains the fit indices for mothers of infants. The Duncan et al. model (Model I.1) exhibited a poor fit. The factor loadings of items 3 and 6 were low (both 0.03) and non-significant, and the loading for item 10 was low (0.24). We did not check modification indices for this model, due to the poor fit.

We then tested the de Bruin et al. model (Model I.2). The covariance matrix indicated a reasonably good fit to the observed matrix. The loadings for items 3 and 6 were low (both 0.10) and non-significant. The factor loading for item 10 was also low (0.17), but significant ( $p < 0.001$ ). Therefore, items 3 and 6 were excluded and the model re-specified with 29 items (Model I.3). Modification indices suggested error covariances that differed from those found in the sample of mothers of children. For Model I.3, covariance between the errors for CC items 4 and 28, which refer to listening to the child's point of view, was suggested. These errors were allowed to covary, resulting in a significantly

**TABLE 2 |** Fit indices from the confirmatory factor analyses, for mothers of children ( $n = 396$ ).

	<b>Model</b>	<b><math>\chi^2</math></b>	<b>df</b>	<b><math>\chi^2/df</math></b>	<b>CFI</b>	<b>RMSEA</b>	<b>90% CI for RMSEA</b>	<b>SRMR</b>	<b>Change from previous model (<math>\Delta\chi^2</math>)</b>
C.1	Duncan et al. (2009) 31 items	1,698.70**	424	4.01	0.750	0.087	[0.083, 0.092]	0.1027	–
C.2	de Bruin et al. (2014) 31 items	944.81**	419	2.26	0.897	0.056	[0.052, 0.061]	0.0686	–
C.3	de Bruin et al. (2014) 29 items (excluding items 3 and 6)	764.36**	362	2.11	0.919	0.053	[0.048, 0.058]	0.0592	180.45 (57)*
C.4	de Bruin et al. (2014) 29 items (covary e18 and e20)	733.53**	361	2.03	0.925	0.051	[0.046, 0.056]	0.0598	30.83 (1)*
C.5	de Bruin et al. (2014) 29 items (cross-load item 24)	693.41**	360	1.93	0.933	0.048	[0.043, 0.054]	0.0575	40.12 (1)*
C.6	Moreira and Canavarro (2017) 29 items	835.13**	367	2.28	0.906	0.057	[0.052, 0.062]	0.0623	–
C.7	Moreira and Canavarro (2017) 29 items (covary e18 and e20)	808.74**	366	2.21	0.911	0.055	[0.050, 0.060]	0.0628	26.39 (1)*
C.8	Moreira and Canavarro (2017) 29 items (cross-load item 24)	780.16**	365	2.14	0.916	0.054	[0.048, 0.059]	0.0622	28.58 (1)*
C.9	Moreira and Canavarro (2017) 29 items (covary e2 and e21)	743.53**	364	2.04	0.924	0.051	[0.046, 0.057]	0.0605	36.36 (1)*

CFI is Comparative fit index; RMSEA is root-mean-square error of approximation; SRMR is standardized root mean square residual; \* $p < 0.01$ ; \*\* $p < 0.001$ .

**TABLE 3 |** Fit indices from the confirmatory factor analyses, for mothers of infants ( $n = 320$ ).

	<b>Model</b>	<b><math>\chi^2</math></b>	<b>df</b>	<b><math>\chi^2/df</math></b>	<b>CFI</b>	<b>RMSEA</b>	<b>90% CI for RMSEA</b>	<b>SRMR</b>	<b>Change from previous model (<math>\Delta\chi^2</math>)</b>
I.1	Duncan et al. (2009) 31 items	1437.17**	424	3.39	0.728	0.087	[0.082, 0.091]	0.0953	–
I.2	de Bruin et al. (2014) 31 items	791.75**	419	1.89	0.900	0.053	[0.047, 0.058]	0.0705	–
I.3	de Bruin et al. (2014) 29 items (excluding items 3 and 6)	669.27**	362	1.85	0.916	0.052	[0.045, 0.058]	0.0662	122.48 (57)*
I.4	de Bruin et al. (2014) 29 items (covary e4 and e28)	649.22**	361	1.80	0.921	0.050	[0.044, 0.056]	0.0662	20.05 (1)*
I.5	de Bruin et al. (2014) 29 items (covary e4 and e7)	630.76**	360	1.75	0.926	0.049	[0.042, 0.055]	0.0660	18.46 (1)*
I.6	Moreira and Canavarro (2017) 29 items	705.06**	367	1.92	0.907	0.054	[0.048, 0.060]	0.0661	–
I.7	Moreira and Canavarro (2017) 29 items (covary e14 and e29)	666.45**	366	1.82	0.918	0.051	[0.045, 0.057]	0.0649	38.61 (1)*
I.8	Moreira and Canavarro (2017) 29 items (covary e4 and e28)	645.71**	365	1.77	0.923	0.049	[0.043, 0.055]	0.0649	20.74 (1)*
I.9	Moreira and Canavarro (2017) 29 items (covary e4 and e7)	626.75**	364	1.72	0.928	0.048	[0.041, 0.054]	0.0646	18.96 (1)*

CFI is Comparative fit index; RMSEA is root-mean-square error of approximation; SRMR is standardized root mean square residual; \* $p < 0.01$ ; \*\* $p < 0.001$ .

**TABLE 4 |** Standardized factor loadings for 29-item de Bruin et al. (2014) model, for mothers of children (Model C.5) and infants (Model I.5).

Item	Mothers of children (n = 396)						Mothers of infants (n = 320)					
	LFA	NJAPF	EAC	CC	EAS	ENRP	LFA	NJAPF	EAC	CC	EAS	ENRP
1 Listening to my child with one ear	0.72						0.65					
9 Rush through activities without being attentive	0.79						0.69					
13 Easily distracted when with my child	0.77						0.72					
19 Not listening, busy thinking about other things	0.78						0.76					
24 Pay close attention to child when together	0.54			0.32			0.72					
15 Hard on myself regarding parenting mistakes		0.70						0.75				
17 Blame myself when times are difficult with child		0.69						0.76				
18 Accept parenting mistakes and move on		0.60						0.63				
20 Give myself a break if I regret my parenting actions		0.55						0.68				
23 Criticize myself for my parenting		0.84						0.76				
26 Think other parents have it easier with parenting		0.64						0.62				
12 Hard to tell what my child is feeling			0.73						0.62			
22 Find it easy to tell when my child is worried			0.74						0.69			
30 Can tell what my child is feeling			0.85						0.77			
4 Listening carefully to child's ideas				0.64						0.37		
7 Allow my child to express their feelings				0.57						0.62		
25 Kind to my child when they upset				0.65						0.67		
27 Nurturing with child when they having a difficult time				0.69						0.74		
28 Try to understand child's point of view				0.71						0.68		
31 Patient with child when they having a hard time				0.70						0.77		
2 Notice how I feel before I take action					0.66						0.65	
8 When upset, I calmly tell child how I feel					0.65						0.49	
16 Try to keep my emotions in balance when upset					0.68						0.72	
21 Pause before reacting, in difficult situations					0.77						0.71	
5 React too quickly to my child						0.71						0.67
10 Difficulty accepting child's growing independence						0.34						0.16
11 Only realize later that feelings affect parenting decisions						0.64						0.68
14 Do things I regret when my child misbehaves						0.77						0.76
29 Get carried away with my feelings when child upsets me						0.76						0.83
Cronbach's alpha for scale:	0.87	0.84	0.81	0.82	0.78	0.77	0.83	0.85	0.73	0.81	0.73	0.73

LFA is the Listening with Full Attention scale of the Interpersonal Mindfulness in Parenting questionnaire (IMP); NJAPF is the Non-judgmental Acceptance of Parental Functioning scale of the IMP; EAC is the Emotional Awareness of the Child scale of the IMP; CC is the Compassion for the Child scale of the IMP; EAS is the Emotional Awareness of the Self scale of the IMP; ENRP is the Emotional Non-reactivity in Parenting scale of the IMP.

improved fit (Model I.4). The modification indices for Model I.4 then suggested covariance between a similar pair of items loading on CC. Items 4 and 7 both relate to allowing a child to express themselves, even in circumstances when this might be

difficult for the parent. This modification was made, leading to a further improvement (Model I.5). The modification indices for Model I.5 did not indicate any substantial error covariances or misspecifications to the model.



**TABLE 5 |** Correlations between IMP subscales, demographic and mindfulness practice variables, and outcome variables, for mothers of children and infants.

Predictors	Mothers of children aged 3–18 years <sup>a</sup>						Mothers of infants aged 0–2 years				
	SDQ Internalizing	DASS Stress	PABUA Over- protection	PABUA Distress	PAAQ Total	PAS Behavior	DASS Stress	PABUA Over- protection	PABUA Distress	PAAQ Total	PAS Behavior
	$\alpha = 0.70$	$\alpha = 0.85$	$\alpha = 0.86$	$\alpha = 0.71$	$\alpha = 0.83$	$\alpha = 0.77$	$\alpha = 0.87$	$\alpha = 0.88$	$\alpha = 0.57$	$\alpha = 0.81$	$\alpha = 0.78$
	–0.87 <sup>b</sup>										
LFA	–0.21**	–0.29***	–0.14	–0.35***	–0.39***	–0.31***	–0.26*	0.03	–0.30*	–0.25	–0.06
CC	–0.17*	–0.15*	–0.04	–0.45***	–0.47***	–0.12	–0.12	–0.06	–0.35**	–0.53***	–0.02
NJAPF	–0.40***	–0.50***	–0.34***	–0.48***	–0.69***	–0.44***	–0.53***	–0.20	–0.38**	–0.65***	–0.29*
EAC	–0.29***	–0.14	–0.01	–0.39***	–0.30***	–0.18*	0.02	–0.02	–0.19	–0.24	–0.02
ENRP	–0.32***	–0.40***	–0.16	–0.46***	–0.58***	–0.26**	–0.36***	–0.13	–0.52***	–0.59***	–0.35**
EAS	–0.28***	–0.24**	–0.09	–0.38***	–0.45***	–0.15	–0.28*	–0.13	–0.37**	–0.57***	–0.31*
Parent age	–0.01	–0.29***	–0.14	–0.08	–0.09	–0.20*	–0.18	0.02	–0.06	–0.17	–0.13
Child age	0.24**	–0.10	–0.10	0.00	0.02	–0.07	–0.06	–0.06	–0.15	–0.35**	–0.09
Child gender <sup>c</sup>	0.12	0.07	0.14	0.14	0.11	0.22**	–0.10	0.06	–0.06	–0.08	0.03
Mental health <sup>d</sup>	0.24*	0.26***	0.16*	0.11	0.27***	0.27***	0.30**	0.07	0.00	0.05	0.12
History of practice <sup>e</sup>	0.07	0.09	–0.08	–0.15	–0.03	0.07	0.00	–0.09	–0.23	–0.13	0.02
Length of practice <sup>f</sup>	–0.14	–0.06	0.08	–0.20	–0.15	0.01	–0.24	–0.13	–0.15	–0.24	–0.30
Frequency of practice <sup>g</sup>	0.03	–0.08	0.01	–0.16	–0.09	–0.17	–0.24	–0.03	–0.02	0.24	0.02

<sup>a</sup>For SDQ Internalizing, this group comprises mothers of children aged 2–18 years (as SDQ data not available for infants under 2 years); <sup>b</sup>Cronbach's alpha is reported separately for the different age categories of SDQ, that is, 0.70 (2–4 years), 0.71 (5–10 years), and 0.87 (11–17 years). No alpha could be calculated for the SDQ (18 years) as there was only 1 mother of a child aged 18 years; <sup>c</sup>0 = females and 1 = males; <sup>d</sup>0 = no previous mental health diagnosis and 1 = previous mental health diagnosis; <sup>e</sup>0 = no history of mindfulness practice and 1 = some history of mindfulness practice; <sup>f</sup>0 = <1 year history of mindfulness practice and 1 = one or more years history of mindfulness practice; <sup>g</sup>0 = currently practicing less than monthly and 1 = currently practicing monthly or more; SDQ Internalizing is the Internalizing scale of the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire; DASS Stress is the Stress scale of the Depression Anxiety Stress Scales; PABUA Overprotection is the Overprotection scale of the Parental Attitudes, Beliefs, and Understanding of Anxiety scale; PABUA Distress is the Distress scale of the Parental Attitudes, Beliefs, and Understanding of Anxiety scale; PAAQ Total is the Total scale from the Parental Acceptance and Action Questionnaire; PAS Behavior is the Behavior scale of the Parental Accommodation Scale; LFA is the Listening with Full Attention scale of the Interpersonal Mindfulness in Parenting questionnaire (IMP); CC is the Compassion for the Child scale of the IMP; NJAPF is the Non-judgmental Acceptance of Parental Functioning scale of the IMP; EAC is the Emotional Awareness of the Child scale of the IMP; ENRP is the Emotional Non-reactivity in Parenting scale of the IMP; EAS is the Emotional Awareness of the Self scale of the IMP; \* $p \leq 0.05$ ; \*\* $p \leq 0.01$ ; \*\*\* $p \leq 0.001$ .

Last, we examined the the 29-item Moreira and Canavarro model in mothers of infants (Model I.6). Model I.6 was a reasonably good fit. Item 10 had the lowest factor loading (0.28), with all other loadings at least 0.44. All loadings were significant. The modification indices for Model I.6 indicated covariance between the errors for items 14 and 29. As these items both load on the SRP factor and refer to parental over-reactivity to the child when upset, they were allowed to covary. With the model re-specified (Model I.7), the fit improved. Modification indices for Model I.7 then suggested covarying errors for CC items 4 and 28. When this modification was made, the fit improved (Model I.8). For Model I.8, the only substantial change suggested was the covariance of the errors for CC items 4 and 7. With this modification, the fit of the revised model (Model I.9) improved and exhibited a reasonably good fit to the data. No further modifications were warranted.

For both groups of mothers, fewer modifications needed to be made to the de Bruin et al. model to achieve optimum fit. The principal difference between the Moreira and Canavarro and de Bruin et al. models is that the items loading on the Dutch EAS and ENRP factors are combined into the single SRP factor in

the Moreira and Canavarro model. Although the Dutch EAS and ENRP factors are closely related, they tap theoretically distinct aspects of parenting, that is emotional self-awareness and non-reactivity. We therefore decided to use the de Bruin et al. model in all following analyses to identify whether these two factors have unique predictive value. The factor loadings for the de Bruin et al. model for mothers of children and infants (Models C.5 and I.5), and the Cronbach's alpha for each scale, are presented in **Table 4**.

## Relationships Between IMP and Demographic and Mindfulness Practice Variables

There were no significant relationships (all  $ps > 0.05$ ) between IMP scores and the background demographic variables, except for small positive associations between IMP scores and parent or child age. These correlations were very small and likely to have no practical significance (e.g.,  $r = 0.13$ ,  $p = 0.008$  between parent age and IMP score amongst mothers of children). IMP scores were significantly associated with parent mental health for both groups. Mothers of children without a previous mental health

diagnosis reported more mindful parenting ( $M = 103.89$ ,  $SD = 12.75$ ) than those with a previous diagnosis ( $M = 98.97$ ,  $SD = 12.75$ ;  $t = -3.72$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ). The same pattern was found amongst mothers of infants, with more mindful parenting in those without a previous diagnosis ( $M = 107.67$ ,  $SD = 12.44$ ), than in those with one ( $M = 104.85$ ,  $SD = 12.43$ ;  $t = -2.02$ ,  $p = 0.044$ ).

IMP scores were also related to some aspects of mindfulness practice. Amongst mothers of children, there was no difference in IMP scores based on history of formal mindfulness practice or the length of that practice history (both  $ps > 0.05$ ). However, IMP scores were related to frequency of current practice, with mothers who reported at least monthly practice having higher scores ( $M = 104.92$ ,  $SD = 13.03$ ) than those practicing less than monthly ( $M = 98.28$ ,  $SD = 11.36$ ;  $t = 3.02$ ,  $p = 0.003$ ). In mothers of infants, IMP scores were higher amongst mothers with a history of formal mindfulness practice ( $M = 108.28$ ,  $SD = 12.15$ ), compared to those without that history ( $M = 104.85$ ,  $SD = 12.60$ ;  $t = -2.46$ ,  $p = 0.015$ ), and amongst those who had practiced for more than 1 year ( $M = 111.04$ ,  $SD = 12.37$ ), compared to those who had practiced for less than a year ( $M = 105.71$ ,  $SD = 11.36$ ;  $t = -2.65$ ,  $p = 0.009$ ). However, IMP scores did not differ according to frequency of current practice ( $p > 0.05$ ) in this group.

## Relationships Between IMP and Child and Parent Outcome Variables

Correlations between demographic and mindfulness practice variables, and child and parent outcome variables, were calculated to determine whether any of these variables should be included as control variables in the regression analyses. These correlations are shown in **Table 5**. Demographic or mindfulness practice variables were included as control variables if the correlations between those variables and the child or parent outcome variables were significant, or where the correlation coefficient was 0.25 or more. We included control variables based on the size of the correlation coefficient as well as statistical significance because of the smaller sample size of mothers of infants.

**Tables 6, 7** detail the results of the regression analyses for child internalizing and the parent outcome variables. Child internalizing problems (for children aged 2–18) were uniquely predicted by the NJAPF and EAC facets, when all other variables were held constant in the equation. For mothers of children, all parent outcomes had a unique association with NJAPF. Parent distress regarding child anxiety was also predicted by EAC and CC, and parental experiential avoidance was also predicted by CC. A different pattern was found for mothers of infants. Parent stress was uniquely predicted by NJAPF, parent distress regarding child anxiety was predicted by ENRP, experiential avoidance by NJAPF and EAS, and accommodation of child anxiety by EAS and CC.

## DISCUSSION

### The Structure of Mindful Parenting

This study sought to examine the structure of mindful parenting, to determine whether it differed for parents of infants and parents

of children, and to investigate the relationships between the facets of mindful parenting, child internalizing, and parent variables related to child internalizing. In relation to factor structure, the model proposed by Duncan et al. (2009) was a poor fit in both groups of mothers. In contrast, the de Bruin et al. (2014) and Moreira and Canavarro (2017) models were an adequate to good fit in both mothers of children and infants. Amongst mothers of children, the slightly better fit indices and lower number of modifications required suggested the de Bruin et al. model was a marginally better fit to the data. Amongst mothers of infants, the indices showed both models to be a reasonably good fit, although the de Bruin et al. model again required fewer modifications to achieve best fit. The divergence of fit between the proposed Duncan et al. model on the one hand, and the de Bruin et al. and Moreira and Canavarro models on the other, supports the separation of the parent- and child-focused items relating to compassion, non-judgment, and emotional awareness onto separate factors. This separation of parent- and child-focused items in an English-speaking group of mothers confirms that this is a reflection of the construct of mindful parenting rather than an artifact of the translation process or a reflection of cultural differences. Our results also confirm that items 3 and 6 should be deleted from the IMP, as suggested by de Bruin et al. (2014) and Moreira and Canavarro (2017).

The fit of the de Bruin et al. (2014) and Moreira and Canavarro (2017) models in both groups of mothers also shows that the construct of mindful parenting is similar for mothers of children and mothers of infants. One potential issue regarding the operation of the IMP in parents of pre-verbal infants was that some items appeared to have limited face validity. For example, the wording of items 4 (“I listen carefully to my child’s ideas, even when I disagree with them”) and 28 (“I try to understand my child’s point of view, even when his/her opinions do not make sense to me”) appears relevant only to parents of children who can verbally express ideas or opinions. For item 28, the loadings were very similar across mothers of children (0.71) and infants (0.68). For item 4, although the loading for mothers of infants (0.37) was lower than for mothers of children (0.64), it was significant. In addition, amongst mothers of infants but not children, the errors for items 4 and 28 were correlated. This pattern of factor loadings, and the error covariance for mothers of infants only, suggests that even though infants do not have sufficient verbal skills to express their opinions, these items are measuring an underlying understanding by mothers that infants can communicate in other ways, such as through displays of emotion. Mothers therefore appear to interpret these items in a manner that is applicable to the developmental age of their child.

There was also some variation between the two groups of mothers in the size of the loadings for item 10 (“I have difficulty accepting my child’s growing independence”). This item had a loading on the ENRP facet of only 0.16 for mothers of infants, and only 0.34 for mothers of children. As the group of mothers of children had a broader range of children, including adolescents in the process of gaining independence from their parents (Moretti and Peled, 2004), it is expected that item 10 would be more relevant to those mothers. However, both loadings were still low, raising the question as to whether it is a good indicator of

**TABLE 6** | Regression analysis of demographic and mindful parenting scale predictors of child internalizing problems (SDQ Internalizing), for mothers of children aged 2–18 years ( $n = 163$ ).

	Model 1				Model 2			
	$R^2$	$\beta$	$t$	$sr^2$	$R^2$	$\beta$	$t$	$sr^2$
	0.09***				0.26***			
Child age		0.25***	3.27	0.06		0.21**	3.01	0.04
Mental health <sup>a</sup>		0.19**	2.54	0.04		0.10	1.32	0.01
LFA						0.01	0.10	0.00
CC						0.10	1.06	0.01
EAC						-0.18*	-2.20	0.02
NJAPF						-0.30***	-3.24	0.05
ENRP						-0.06	-0.48	0.00
EAS						-0.08	-0.77	0.00

<sup>a</sup>0 = no previous mental health diagnosis and 1 = previous mental health diagnosis; LFA is the Listening with Full Attention scale of the Interpersonal Mindfulness in Parenting questionnaire (IMP); CC is the Compassion for the Child scale of the IMP; EAC is the Emotional Awareness of the Child scale of the IMP; NJAPF is the Non-judgmental Acceptance of Parental Functioning scale of the IMP; ENRP is the Emotional Non-reactivity in Parenting scale of the IMP; EAS is the Emotional Awareness of the Self scale of the IMP; \* $p \leq 0.05$ ; \*\* $p \leq 0.01$ ; \*\*\* $p \leq 0.001$ .

non-reactivity. This item was also problematic in the unpublished validation of the 10-item IMP (Duncan, 2007), where it showed low correlations with other items. Further investigations could help clarify whether item 10 should be retained in the IMP.

## Relationship Between Mindful Parenting, Child Internalizing, and Parent Outcome Variables

The regression analyses conducted in this study show that several facets of mindful parenting predict child internalizing problems and related parent outcomes, after controlling for demographic and mindfulness practice variables. Child internalizing problems were predicted by the NJAPF and EAC facets, when all other variables in the equation were held constant. Children have less internalizing problems if their mothers are less judgmental about their own parental functioning. Previously, adolescents have been found to be less anxious and depressed if their parents are less judgmental about themselves as parents (Geurtzen et al., 2015), so the present results confirm this relationship in mothers of a wider age range of children. Mothers with greater emotional awareness regarding their child also had children with less internalizing problems. From the child's perspective, having emotionally competent parents facilitates adaptive processing of emotional experience (Morris et al., 2017). There are various ways in which being more accepting of one's own parental functioning and more emotionally aware could result in children with less internalizing problems. Emotionally competent parents model helpful emotion regulation strategies, including acceptance, thereby providing opportunities for their children to learn these behaviors (Morris et al., 2017). In turn, children with better emotion regulation skills have fewer internalizing problems (Suveg et al., 2011). However, the cross-sectional nature of the data means that alternative explanations are possible. For example, having an anxious child who avoids certain activities like engaging in sports or interacting with other children at school or in social settings may cause a parent

to negatively judge their abilities as a parent. Finally, it is also possible that being more judgmental regarding one's own parental functioning or less emotionally aware regarding one's child indicate an underlying predisposition to anxiety, such as negative affect (Barlow, 2000), which predicts child internalizing (Drake and Ginsburg, 2012).

Parent stress was predicted by NJAPF in both mothers of children and infants. Mothers are less stressed if they are less judgmental regarding their own functioning as a parent. These results are consistent with an earlier study by Moreira and Canavarro (2018), who found that non-judgmental acceptance mediates the relationship between self-critical rumination and parenting stress. It seems likely that parents who judge their own performance as a parent less harshly would have lower levels of general stress because they would be less likely to try to meet overly high standards of parenting and be less punishing of themselves for perceived failures to meet those standards (Moreira and Canavarro, 2018).

Parent beliefs and attitudes about child anxiety were predicted by NJAPF, EAC, and CC in mothers of children, but only by ENRP in mothers of infants. Specifically, mothers of children are less likely to believe they need to protect their child from anxiety and are less distressed by their child's anxiety, if they are less judgmental regarding their own functioning as a parent and more emotionally aware and compassionate regarding their child. Parents who find it difficult to understand their child's emotions, including anxiety, may experience distress because they lack skills to manage their child's or their own reactions to that emotional state (Izard et al., 2011). This may also reflect an understanding that anxiety is a normal emotion that everyone will experience at times and, as such, is not something that parents need to guard against in their children. In contrast, mothers of infants experienced less distress regarding child anxiety if they were less emotionally reactive in their parenting. Emotional self-regulation may be important in helping parents of infants to cope with any distress associated with their infant, because the limited capacity

**TABLE 7 |** Regression analyses of mindful parenting scale predictors of parent outcome variables, for mothers of infants and children.

	Mothers of children aged 3–18 years								Mothers of infants aged 0–2 years							
	Model 1				Model 2				Model 1				Model 2			
	<i>R</i> <sup>2</sup>	$\beta$	<i>t</i>	<i>sr</i> <sup>2</sup>	<i>R</i> <sup>2</sup>	$\beta$	<i>t</i>	<i>sr</i> <sup>2</sup>	<i>R</i> <sup>2</sup>	$\beta$	<i>t</i>	<i>sr</i> <sup>2</sup>	<i>R</i> <sup>2</sup>	$\beta$	<i>t</i>	<i>sr</i> <sup>2</sup>
<b>DASS Stress</b>	<i>n</i> = 167								<i>n</i> = 75							
Predictors:	0.13***				0.32***				0.09**				0.38***			
Parent age		−0.26***	−3.56	0.07		−0.19**	−2.69	0.03		−	−	−		−	−	−
Mental health <sup>a</sup>		0.22**	2.94	0.05		0.11	1.63	0.01		0.30**	2.67	0.09		0.20*	2.04	0.04
LFA						−0.06	−0.69	0.00						−0.14	−1.21	0.01
CC						0.10	1.12	0.01						0.15	1.12	0.01
EAC						−0.04	−0.58	0.00						0.15	1.36	0.02
NJAPF						−0.30***	−3.36	0.05						−0.41***	−3.55	0.12
ENRP						−0.20	−1.85	0.01						−0.11	−0.78	0.01
EAS						0.00	−0.01	0.00						−0.16	−1.13	0.01
<b>PABUA Overprotection</b>	<i>n</i> = 156								<i>n</i> = 66							
Predictors:	0.03*				0.13**				0.03*							
Mental health <sup>a</sup>		0.16*	1.97	0.02		0.05	0.65	0.00		−	−	−				
LFA						−0.07	−0.68	0.00		0.14	0.92	0.01				
CC						0.05	0.51	0.00		0.04	0.19	0.00				
EAC						0.05	0.55	0.00		0.00	0.01	0.00				
NJAPF						−0.36***	−3.56	0.07		−0.19	−1.24	0.02				
ENRP						0.06	0.48	0.00		−0.05	−0.25	0.00				
EAS						0.01	0.08	0.00		−0.11	−0.61	0.01				
<b>PABUA Distress</b>	<i>n</i> = 156								<i>n</i> = 66							
Predictors:	0.36***								0.29**							
LFA		0.00	−0.03	0.00						−0.05	−0.37	0.00				
CC		−0.21*	−2.37	0.02						−0.09	−0.56	0.00				
EAC		−0.20**	−2.68	0.03						0.04	0.31	0.00				
NJAPF		−0.31***	−3.68	0.06						−0.14	−1.05	0.01				
ENRP		−0.10	0.98	0.00						−0.37*	−2.29	0.06				
EAS		0.01	0.05	0.00						−0.04	−0.22	0.00				
<b>PAAQ Total</b>	<i>n</i> = 148								<i>n</i> = 64							
Predictors:	0.07***				0.57***				0.12**				0.67***			
Child age										−0.35***	−2.90	0.12		−0.27***	−3.40	0.07
Mental health <sup>a</sup>		0.27***	3.33	0.07		0.09	1.61	0.01					−	−	−	
LFA						0.03	0.44	0.00						0.17	1.90	0.02
CC						−0.22**	−2.91	0.03						−0.21	−1.90	0.02
EAC						−0.06	−0.87	0.00						0.07	0.79	0.00
NJAPF						−0.50***	−6.71	0.14						−0.41***	−4.45	0.12
ENRP						−0.15	−1.62	0.01						−0.21	−1.89	0.02
EAS						−0.01	−0.12	0.00						−0.24*	−2.11	0.03
<b>PAS Behavior</b>	<i>n</i> = 143								<i>n</i> = 59							
Predictors:	0.13***				0.28***				0.03				0.27*			
Parent age		−0.15	−1.88	0.02		−0.07	−0.94	0.00		−	−	−		−	−	−
Child gender <sup>b</sup>		0.19*	2.32	0.03		0.15*	2.03	0.02		−	−	−		−	−	−
Mental health <sup>a</sup>		0.23**	2.87	0.05		0.12	1.58	0.01		−	−	−		−	−	−

(Continued)

TABLE 7 | Continued

	Mothers of children aged 3–18 years								Mothers of infants aged 0–2 years							
	Model 1				Model 2				Model 1				Model 2			
	$R^2$	$\beta$	$t$	$sr^2$	$R^2$	$\beta$	$t$	$sr^2$	$R^2$	$\beta$	$t$	$sr^2$	$R^2$	$\beta$	$t$	$sr^2$
Length of practice <sup>c</sup>																
<1 year	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	0.09	0.62	0.01	–	0.12	0.84	0.01	–
≥1 year	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–0.12	–0.82	0.01	–	–0.02	–0.11	0.00	–
LFA					–0.18	–1.85	0.02						0.10	0.72	0.01	
CC					0.12	1.14	0.01						0.35*	2.02	0.06	
EAC					–0.10	–1.24	0.01						0.06	0.39	0.00	
NJAPF					–0.35***	–3.50	0.07						–0.11	–0.79	0.01	
ENRP					0.03	0.26	0.00						–0.34	–1.90	0.05	
EAS					0.03	0.25	0.00						–0.35*	–1.97	0.06	

<sup>a</sup>0 = no previous mental health diagnosis and 1 = previous mental health diagnosis; <sup>b</sup>0 = females and 1 = males; <sup>c</sup>0 = <1 year history of mindfulness practice and 1 = one or more years history of mindfulness practice; DASS Stress is the Stress scale of the Depression Anxiety Stress Scales; PABUA Overprotection is the Overprotection scale of the Parental Attitudes, Beliefs, and Understanding of Anxiety scale; PABUA Distress is the Distress scale of the Parental Attitudes, Beliefs, and Understanding of Anxiety scale; PAAQ Total is the Total scale from the Parental Acceptance and Action Questionnaire; PAS Behavior is the Behavior scale of the Parental Accommodation Scale; LFA is the Listening with Full Attention scale of the Interpersonal Mindfulness in Parenting questionnaire (IMP); CC is the Compassion for the Child scale of the IMP; EAC is the Emotional Awareness of the Child scale of the IMP; NJAPF is the Non-judgmental Acceptance of Parental Functioning scale of the IMP; ENRP is the Emotional Non-reactivity in Parenting scale of the IMP; EAS is the Emotional Awareness of the Self scale of the IMP; \* $p \leq 0.05$ ; \*\* $p \leq 0.01$ ; \*\*\* $p \leq 0.001$ .

of infants to regulate themselves means they must rely on parents' regulatory abilities (Rutherford et al., 2015).

Parental experiential avoidance was predicted by NJAPF and CC in mothers of children and NJAPF and EAS in mothers of infants. Mothers of children are less avoidant if they are less judgmental regarding their parenting and more compassionate with their child. Experientially avoidant parents have difficulty experiencing their own thoughts and emotions in relation to their child's negative emotions (Cheron et al., 2009). More compassionate parents of children may be less avoidant because they are more actively focused upon supporting their child than on their own psychological discomfort. Alternatively, parents who are less avoidant could find it easier to be compassionate toward their child because they are not using attentional resources to manage their own internal state (Kashdan et al., 2008). Mothers of infants are less avoidant if they are less judgmental regarding their parenting and more emotionally self-aware. It is interesting that emotional self-awareness is only predictive of parental experiential avoidance in mothers of infants, and not children. As noted above, infants are less able than older children to regulate themselves and are therefore more likely to be dysregulated for reasons that may not be obvious, which could be frustrating or distressing to a parent. It is possible that parents who are more emotionally self-aware and regulated will be more likely to realize that the psychological discomfort they experience in such situations is a normal emotional reaction to parenting an infant and that this psychological discomfort need not be avoided or suppressed.

Last, parental accommodation of child anxiety was predicted by NJAPF in mothers of children and by EAS and CC in mothers of infants. Mothers of children are less accommodating of their child's anxiety if they are less judgmental regarding

their own parenting, whereas mothers of infants are less accommodating if they are more emotionally self-aware and less compassionate with their infant. Compassion involves engaging with someone's suffering rather than avoiding it (Carona et al., 2017), for example through accommodation or overprotection. The finding that *lower* compassion predicts less accommodation behavior therefore seems contradictory to this view of compassion. However, this finding is consistent with the evolutionary perspective that the purpose of a mother-infant attachment relationship is to provide physical and emotional comfort to the infant (Paquette, 2004). While parental overprotectiveness is generally seen as a risk factor for child anxiety (Yap et al., 2014), this is not the case for infants (Möller et al., 2015).

Conducting separate regression analyses for mothers of children and infants has disclosed a different pattern of findings regarding the most important predictors for each group of mothers. For mothers of children, non-judgmental acceptance of parental functioning predicted all parent outcomes related to child internalizing problems and was in each case the largest predictor, making it the most important predictor of outcomes for this group of mothers. This facet might be relevant in this group of mothers because they interpret their child's behavior as reflecting upon the adequacy of their parenting. However, for mothers of infants only, the two facets relating to self-awareness and self-regulation, EAS and ENRP, appear to be important. This is likely to be related to the developmental stage of infants compared to children. The relative inability of all infants to self-regulate requires mothers of infants to assist their infants by regulating *themselves* emotionally and behaviourally. Mothers of infants may be less likely to interpret their infant's behavior as related to the adequacy of their parenting, perhaps because there is a general



understanding that infants, unlike children, cannot regulate their own behavior. Our finding regarding the importance of EAS is also consistent with a recent study that investigated the relationship between self-reported mindful parenting, and the quality of interactions between mothers and their 0–4 year-old child (Potharst et al., 2020). In that study, higher EAS predicted higher quality interactions between mother and child. It was suggested that mothers' emotional self-awareness is an underlying requirement for conscious decision-making in parenting and therefore affects behaviors toward the child (Potharst et al., 2020).

## Clinical Implications

The findings discussed above have potentially important clinical implications. First, in line with evidence that mindful parenting and general trait mindfulness are correlated (Meppelink et al., 2016), the present results showed mindful parenting was related to formal mindfulness practice. However, these relationships were weak, indicating that a parent's general mindfulness practice may not have a meaningful impact on their ability to be mindful with their child. Further, as increases in mindful parenting, but not general mindfulness, predict reductions in child psychopathology (Meppelink et al., 2016), families managing child psychopathology may benefit more from mindful parenting programs targeted specifically toward parenting difficulties, rather than from general mindfulness programs.

Second, mindful parenting interventions may be useful in treating child internalizing problems. While cognitive-behavioral therapy (CBT) enjoys the most empirical support as a treatment for child anxiety disorders (MacPherson and Fristad, 2014), a remission rate of 59% across these disorders (James et al., 2013) shows the clear need for additional treatment approaches that cater to those families not helped by CBT. Parent psychopathology and underlying emotion regulation deficits (Aldao et al., 2010) are barriers to the effective treatment of child psychopathology (Maliken and Katz, 2013). Addressing these parental difficulties, for example through a mindful parenting program, is therefore likely to improve child outcomes.

Finally, there is a need to consider the focus of mindful parenting interventions offered to families both in terms of the child's age and the nature of a child's difficulties. In relation to child age, the present results showed a different pattern of predictors for mothers of children vs. infants, suggesting that parents might benefit more from attending programs that are tailored to target the most relevant facets of mindful parenting for parents with children in the relevant age group. Regarding the nature of the child's difficulties, mindful parenting interventions have, to date, largely been targeted to parents of children with externalizing problems, who tend to experience greater reactivity toward their children as a result of elevated parenting stress (Bögels et al., 2010). However, the ENRP facet of mindful parenting did not predict the majority of outcome variables in this study. Instead, NJAPF, CC, EAC, and EAS predicted child internalizing and related parent variables. Accordingly, in mindful parenting interventions for families with internalizing children, it may

be important to focus on building non-judgment, compassion and emotional awareness in parents, rather than targeting non-reactivity. At the time of this study, we are not aware of any published research regarding the effectiveness of mindful parenting interventions specifically aimed at families of children with internalizing problems.

## Limitations

There are limitations to note in connection with this study. First, as the IMP validation was undertaken only with mothers, the results are not generalizable to fathers. We are unaware of any investigations of the IMP's factor structure in father-only samples, so a gap remains in our understanding of how the construct of mindful parenting may compare in fathers and mothers. This issue is an important one to address because it informs the question of whether mindful parenting programs, which are currently the same for mothers and fathers, should be tailored to reflect any gender differences in mindful parenting. Second, we only considered the structure of mindful parenting in infants aged 0–2 years and children aged 3–18 years. The group of children in particular had a broad age range, and given that parenting children at each end of this age range may be quite different, it would be interesting for future studies to look at mindful parenting in more precise age groups. Lastly, although we have identified several parent variables that might mediate the relationship between mindful parenting and child internalizing problems, including parental experiential avoidance, beliefs about child anxiety and overprotectiveness, our data are cross-sectional so no meaningful path analyses could be conducted. Since no conclusions can be drawn about the directions of effect from the present results, future studies with longitudinal data are now needed to test these potential mediators.

## CONCLUSION

This study shows for the first time that the IMP is a valid measure of mindful parenting in English-speaking, community-recruited mothers. Importantly, it also confirms that the IMP operates similarly amongst mothers of pre-verbal infants and mothers of children. Mindful parenting, in particular the facets relating to non-judgmental acceptance of parenting, compassion and emotional awareness, predicts child internalizing problems and parent variables related to child internalizing problems. Mindful parenting programs have the potential to help the substantial proportion of families of children with internalizing problems who are not currently well-served by CBT, including those families grappling with parental psychopathology or emotion regulation difficulties.

## DATA AVAILABILITY STATEMENT

The raw data supporting the conclusions of this article will be made available by the authors, without undue reservation.

## ETHICS STATEMENT

The studies involving human participants were reviewed and approved by University of Sydney Human Research Ethics Committee. The patients/participants provided their written informed consent to participate in this study.

## AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

VB designed the study, collected, and analyzed the data, wrote the first version of the manuscript and revised

subsequent versions. MS reviewed and revised the design, statistical analyses, and each version of the manuscript. All authors contributed to the article and approved the submitted version.

## FUNDING

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**Conflict of Interest:** The authors declare that the research was conducted in the absence of any commercial or financial relationships that could be construed as a potential conflict of interest.

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# APPENDIX B2



## Research Integrity & Ethics Administration HUMAN RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEE

Friday, 12 April 2019

Dr Marianna Szabo  
Psychology; Faculty of Science  
Email: [marianna.szabo@sydney.edu.au](mailto:marianna.szabo@sydney.edu.au)

Dear Marianna,

The University of Sydney Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC) has considered your application.

I am pleased to inform you that after consideration of your response, your project has been approved.

Details of the approval are as follows:

**Project No.:** 2019/183  
**Project Title:** Mindful Parenting EFA  
**Authorised Personnel:** Szabo Marianna; Burgdorf Virginia;  
**Approval Period:** 12/04/2019 to 12/04/2023  
**First Annual Report Due:** 12/04/2020

### Documents Approved:

Date Uploaded	Version Number	Document Name
15/03/2019	Version 1	Demographics Questionnaire
15/03/2019	Version 1	Text of Facebook post/email re: study
15/03/2019	Version 1	Advertisement to Prolific participants
15/03/2019	Version 1	Interpersonal Mindfulness in Parenting Scale
10/04/2019	Version 2	Participant Information & Consent (clean)
10/04/2019	Version 2	Participant Info & Consent - Prolific Academic (clean)

### Condition/s of Approval

- Research must be conducted according to the approved proposal.
- An annual progress report must be submitted to the Ethics Office on or before the anniversary of approval and on completion of the project.
- You must report as soon as practicable anything that might warrant review of ethical approval of the project including:
  - Serious or unexpected adverse events (which should be reported within 72 hours).
  - Unforeseen events that might affect continued ethical acceptability of the project.
- Any changes to the proposal must be approved prior to their implementation (except where an amendment is undertaken to eliminate *immediate* risk to participants).
- Personnel working on this project must be sufficiently qualified by education, training and experience for their role, or adequately supervised. Changes to personnel must be reported and approved.
- Personnel must disclose any actual or potential conflicts of interest, including any financial or other interest or affiliation, as relevant to this project.



- Data and primary materials must be retained and stored in accordance with the relevant legislation and University guidelines.
- Ethics approval is dependent upon ongoing compliance of the research with the *National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research*, the *Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research*, applicable legal requirements, and with University policies, procedures and governance requirements.
- The Ethics Office may conduct audits on approved projects.
- The Chief Investigator has ultimate responsibility for the conduct of the research and is responsible for ensuring all others involved will conduct the research in accordance with the above.

This letter constitutes ethical approval only.

Please contact the Ethics Office should you require further information or clarification.

Sincerely,

**Dr Haryana Dillon**  
Chair  
Psychology Honours Review Committee (Low Risk)

The University of Sydney of Sydney HRECs are constituted and operate in accordance with the National Health and Medical Research Council's (NHMRC) [National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research \(2007\)](#) and the NHMRC's [Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research \(2007\)](#)

Tuesday, 3 December 2019

Dr Marianna Szabo  
Psychology; Faculty of Science  
Email: [marianna.szabo@sydney.edu.au](mailto:marianna.szabo@sydney.edu.au)

Dear Marianna,

Your request to modify this project, which was submitted on 14/11/2019, has been considered.

This project has been approved to proceed with the proposed amendments.

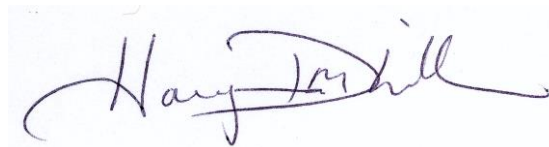
**Protocol Number:** 2019/183  
**Protocol Title:** Mindful Parenting EFA

**Documents Approved:**

Date Uploaded	Version Number	Document Name
14/11/2019	Version 3	Facebook post clean
14/11/2019	Version 2	Participant Information (clean)

Please contact the ethics office should you require further information.

Sincerely,



**Dr Haryana Dillon**  
Chair  
Psychology Low Risk Subcommittee

The University of Sydney of Sydney HRECs are constituted and operate in accordance with the National Health and Medical Research Council's (NHMRC) [National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research \(2007\)](#) and the NHMRC's [Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research \(2007\)](#)

Friday, 7 June 2019

Dr Marianna Szabo  
Psychology; Faculty of Science  
Email: [marianna.szabo@sydney.edu.au](mailto:marianna.szabo@sydney.edu.au)

Dear Marianna,

The University of Sydney Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC) has considered your application.

I am pleased to inform you that your project has been approved

Details of the approval are as follows:

**Project No.:** 2019/440  
**Project Title:** Parenting practices, emotion regulation and beliefs about child anxiety.  
**Authorised Personnel:** Szabo Marianna; Burgdorf Virginia;  
**Approval Period:** 06/06/2019 to 06/06/2023  
**First Annual Report Due:** 06/06/2020

**Documents Approved:**

Date Uploaded	Version Number	Document Name
23/05/2019	Version 1	Advertisement to Prolific participants
22/05/2019	Version 1	CERQ
22/05/2019	Version 1	DASS-21
22/05/2019	Version 1	Demographics Questionnaire
22/05/2019	Version 1	IMP
22/05/2019	Version 1	PAAQ
22/05/2019	Version 1	PABUA
23/05/2019	Version 1	Participant Info & Consent
23/05/2019	Version 1	Participant Info & Consent for Prolific
22/05/2019	Version 1	SDQ
24/05/2019	Version 1	Text to advertise for study on Facebook or at Science Week

**Condition/s of Approval**

- Research must be conducted according to the approved proposal.
- An annual progress report must be submitted to the Ethics Office on or before the anniversary of approval and on completion of the project.
- You must report as soon as practicable anything that might warrant review of ethical approval of the project including:
  - Serious or unexpected adverse events (which should be reported within 72 hours).
  - Unforeseen events that might affect continued ethical acceptability of the project.
- Any changes to the proposal must be approved prior to their implementation (except where an amendment is undertaken to eliminate *immediate* risk to participants).
- Personnel working on this project must be sufficiently qualified by education, training and experience for their role, or adequately supervised. Changes to personnel must be reported and approved.



- Personnel must disclose any actual or potential conflicts of interest, including any financial or other interest or affiliation, as relevant to this project.
- Data and primary materials must be retained and stored in accordance with the relevant legislation and University guidelines.
- Ethics approval is dependent upon ongoing compliance of the research with the *National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research*, the *Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research*, applicable legal requirements, and with University policies, procedures and governance requirements.
- The Ethics Office may conduct audits on approved projects.
- The Chief Investigator has ultimate responsibility for the conduct of the research and is responsible for ensuring all others involved will conduct the research in accordance with the above.

This letter constitutes ethical approval only.

Please contact the Ethics Office should you require further information or clarification.

Sincerely,

**Dr Haryana Dillon**  
Chair  
Psychology Low Risk Subcommittee

The University of Sydney of Sydney HRECs are constituted and operate in accordance with the National Health and Medical Research Council's (NHMRC) [National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research \(2007\)](#) and the NHMRC's [Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research \(2007\)](#)

Friday, 19 July 2019

Dr Marianna Szabo  
Psychology; Faculty of Science  
Email: [marianna.szabo@sydney.edu.au](mailto:marianna.szabo@sydney.edu.au)

Dear Marianna,

Your request to modify this project, which was submitted on 27/06/2019, has been considered.

This project has been approved to proceed with the proposed amendments.

**Protocol Number:** 2019/440

**Protocol Title:** Parenting practices, emotion regulation and beliefs about child anxiety.

**Documents Approved:**

Date Uploaded	Version Number	Document Name
27/06/2019	Version 1	Parental Accommodation Scale

Please contact the ethics office should you require further information.

Sincerely,



Associate Professor Stephen Fuller  
Chair  
Modification Review Committee Chair (MRC 3)

The University of Sydney of Sydney HRECs are constituted and operate in accordance with the National Health and Medical Research Council's (NHMRC) [National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research \(2007\)](#) and the NHMRC's [Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research \(2007\)](#)

## APPENDIX B3

### Text of Facebook post, advertising the study (183/2019)

“We are looking for parents, or people in the role of parent, with at least one child currently aged 0-20 years. Please help us with our research by taking this short survey about parenting.

After a few questions on demographics, we will ask you some questions regarding your interactions with your child. If you have more than one child, we will ask you to answer the questions about just one of your children.

The survey is anonymous and will take about 10 minutes. If you are interested in participating, please click on the link below:

*[insert Qualtrics link]*

Please share this survey with your family, friends and other contacts!”

### Text of Facebook post advertising the study (440/2019)

Are you a parent, or in the role of parent, to at least one child who is currently aged 0-20 years?

If so, please help us with our research on the relationships between parenting practices, emotion regulation and beliefs about child anxiety. Understanding these relationships will help us to design strategies that assist parents to manage their child’s anxiety.

Participation in the study involves completion of an online survey. It is anonymous and will take about 20 minutes. If you are interested in participating, please click on the link below:

*[insert Qualtrics link]*

Please share this survey with your family, friends and other contacts!

# APPENDIX B4

## Participant Information Statement 183/2019



School of Psychology  
Faculty of Science

ABN 15 211 513 464

**Dr Marianna Szabo**  
Senior Lecturer  
School of Psychology

Room 417  
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### Understanding Parenting Practices

#### PARTICIPANT INFORMATION STATEMENT

##### **(1) What is this study about?**

You are invited to take part in a research study about how parents listen and respond to their children and whether these practices differ according to certain parental factors (like whether a parent is a primary caregiver) or child factors (like age or gender).

You have been invited to participate because you are a parent, or you are in the role of parent, to at least one child currently aged between 0-20 years of age. This Participant Information Statement tells you about the research study, so you can decide if you want to take part.

##### **(2) Who is running the study?**

The study is being carried out by Gini Burgdorf as part of the degree of Doctor of Philosophy at The University of Sydney. This will take place under the supervision of Dr Marianna Szabo (Senior Lecturer, The University of Sydney).

##### **(3) What will the study involve for me?**

You will be asked to complete an online questionnaire, at a time that suits you. The questionnaire will ask you some questions about demographics and your parenting practices.

##### **(4) How much of my time will the study take?**

The questionnaire will take about 10 minutes to complete.



**(5) Who can take part in the study?**

You can take part in this study if:

- you are a parent, or in the role of parent, to a child currently aged between 0-20 years; and
- English is your primary language.

**(6) Do I have to be in the study? Can I withdraw from the study once I've started?**

Being in this study is completely voluntary. Your decision whether to participate will not affect any current or future relationship with the researchers or anyone else at the University of Sydney.

If you decide to take part in the study and then change your mind, you can withdraw at any time, by not submitting the online questionnaire. However, once submitted, your responses cannot be withdrawn because they are anonymous and we will not be able to tell which set of responses is yours.

**(7) Are there any risks or costs associated with being in the study?**

Aside from giving up some of your time, we do not expect that there will be any risks or costs associated with taking part in this study.

**(8) Are there any benefits associated with being in the study?**

You will not receive any direct benefits. However, your answers will help researchers better understand parenting practices in an English-speaking population.

**(9) What will happen to information about me that is collected during the study?**

By providing your consent, you are agreeing to us collecting personal information from you for the purposes of this research study. Your information (that is, your questionnaire answers) will only be used for the purposes outlined in this Participant Information Statement, unless you consent otherwise.

- Your information will be collected through an online questionnaire, hosted on Qualtrics. Qualtrics meets strict security requirements.
- The information collected will be “non-identifiable”. This means that your questionnaire answers cannot be linked to you in any way. This non-identifiable information will be stored for 5 years (as required by law) in the University’s Research Data Store and will then be destroyed.
- Study findings may be published in the researcher’s doctoral thesis, or used by the researcher either alone or with collaborating researchers to write scientific papers or conference presentations. Only non-identifiable information will be used in such publications.

**(10) Can I tell other people about the study?**

Yes, you are welcome to.

**(11) What if I would like further information about the study?**

If you would like to know more at any stage of the study, please feel free to contact the Researcher at [virginia.burgdorf@sydney.edu.au](mailto:virginia.burgdorf@sydney.edu.au).

**(12) Will I be told the results of the study?**

You have a right to receive feedback about the overall results of this study. We will post a summary of the results on our Facebook page, Mindful Parenting Research. You can “follow” that page to be notified when the summary has been posted. Alternatively, you may email the Researcher at [virginia.burgdorf@sydney.edu.au](mailto:virginia.burgdorf@sydney.edu.au) and ask for a summary of the results by email.

**(13) What if I have a complaint or any concerns about the study?**

Research involving humans in Australia is reviewed by an independent group of people called a Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC). The ethical aspects of this study have been approved by the HREC of the University of Sydney (protocol number 2019/183). As part of this process, we have agreed to carry out the study according to the *National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research (2007)*. This statement has been developed to protect people who agree to take part in research studies.

If you are concerned about the way this study is being conducted or you wish to make a complaint to someone independent from the study, please contact the university using the details outlined below. Please quote the study title and protocol number.

The Manager, Ethics Administration, University of Sydney:

- **Telephone:** +61 2 8627 8176
- **Email:** [human.ethics@sydney.edu.au](mailto:human.ethics@sydney.edu.au)
- **Fax:** +61 2 8627 8177 (Facsimile)

## APPENDIX B5

### Demographics Questionnaire

1. Do you consider yourself to be the primary caregiver for the children in your family?
  - a. Yes
  - b. No
  - c. I share the caregiving role equally with another family member
  
2. What is your age (in years): [*select from pull down menu*]
  
3. In which country is your **primary** residence? [*select from pull-down menu*]
  
4. Please choose the cultural background that you **most closely** identify with:
  - a. Australian
  - b. Australian Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander or South Sea Islander
  - c. New Zealander
  - d. British or Irish
  - e. Western European
  - f. Northern European
  - g. Southern European
  - h. Eastern European
  - i. South-East Asian
  - j. North-East Asian
  - k. Southern or Central Asian
  - l. Middle Eastern
  - m. North African
  - n. Sub-Saharan African
  - o. North American
  - p. South or Central American
  - q. Other (*please specify*)
  
5. What is the highest level of education you have **completed**?
  - a. Post-graduate degree (Master's degree or doctoral degree)
  - b. Bachelor's degree (including an Honours-level degree)
  - c. Associate's degree
  - d. Vocational training
  - e. High school or secondary school (Year 12 or equivalent) or less
  - f. Other
  
6. How many children are in your family:
  - a. 1

- b. 2
  - c. 3
  - d. 4
  - e. 5 or more
7. Have you ever been diagnosed with a mental health condition?
- a. Yes
  - b. No
8. Have you ever engaged in the formal practice of mindfulness (or other form of meditation or contemplative practice)?
- a. No formal practice
  - b. Mindfulness
  - c. Yoga
  - d. Tai chi
  - e. Other (*please specify*)
9. [*Display this question only if "Mindfulness" is selected in Q8*] For approximately how long have you engaged in the formal practice of mindfulness?
- a. Less than 3 months
  - b. 3 to 6 months
  - c. 6 months to 1 year
  - d. 1 to 5 years
  - e. 5 to 10 years
  - f. More than 10 years
10. [*Display this question only if "Mindfulness" is selected in Q8*] How frequently are you currently engaging in formal practice of mindfulness?
- a. Once or more a day
  - b. 3 or more times a week
  - c. 1 to 2 times a week
  - d. Once a fortnight
  - e. Once a month
  - f. Less than once a month
  - g. Not currently practicing

For the following questions about parenting practices, please choose one child aged 0-20 years in your family, and answer the questions about your parenting of that child:

11. What is your relationship to the child about whom you will answer the parenting questions?
- a. Biological mother
  - b. Biological father
  - c. Adoptive mother
  - d. Adoptive father
  - e. Stepmother
  - f. Stepfather

- g. Foster mother
- h. Foster father
- i. Grandmother
- j. Grandfather
- k. Other (*please specify*)

12. What is the gender of the child about whom you will answer the parenting questions?

- a. Male
- b. Female
- c. Other (*please specify*)

13. What is the age of the child about whom you will answer the parenting questions? [*select from pull-down menu*]

### Interpersonal Mindfulness in Parenting Scale

The following statements describe different ways that parents interact with their children on a daily basis. Please select whether you think the statement is “Never True”, “Rarely True”, “Sometimes True”, “Often True” or “Always True” for you.

Remember there are no right or wrong answers. Please answer according to what *really* reflects your experience rather than what you think your experience *should* be. Please treat each statement separately from every other statement.

	Never True	Rarely True	Sometimes True	Often True	Always True
1. I find myself listening to my child with one ear because I am busy doing or thinking about something else at the same time.	1	2	3	4	5
2. When I’m upset with my child, I notice how I am feeling before I take action.	1	2	3	4	5
3. I notice how changes in my child’s mood affect my mood.	1	2	3	4	5
4. I listen carefully to my child’s ideas, even when I disagree with them.	1	2	3	4	5
5. I often react too quickly to what my child says or does.	1	2	3	4	5
6. I am aware of how my moods affect the way I treat my child.	1	2	3	4	5
7. Even when it makes me uncomfortable, I allow my child to express his/her feelings.	1	2	3	4	5
8. When I am upset with my child, I calmly tell him/her how I am feeling.	1	2	3	4	5
9. I rush through activities with my child without really being attentive to him/her.	1	2	3	4	5
10. I have difficulty accepting my child’s growing independence.	1	2	3	4	5
11. How I am feeling tends to affect my parenting decisions, but I do not realise it until later.	1	2	3	4	5

12. It is hard for me to tell what my child is feeling.	1	2	3	4	5
13. When I am doing things with my child, my mind wanders off and I am easily distracted.	1	2	3	4	5
14. When my child misbehaves, it makes me so upset I say or do things I later regret.	1	2	3	4	5
15. I tend to be hard on myself when I make mistakes as a parent.	1	2	3	4	5
16. When my child does something that upsets me, I try to keep my emotions in balance.	1	2	3	4	5
17. When times are really difficult with my child, I tend to blame myself.	1	2	3	4	5
18. When things I try to do as a parent do not work out, I can accept them and move on.	1	2	3	4	5
19. I am often so busy thinking about other things that I realise I am not really listening to my child.	1	2	3	4	5
20. When I do something as a parent that I regret, I try to give myself a break.	1	2	3	4	5
21. In difficult situations with my child, I pause without immediately reacting.	1	2	3	4	5
22. It is easy for me to tell when my child is worried about something.	1	2	3	4	5
23. I tend to criticize myself for not being the kind of parent I want to be.	1	2	3	4	5
24. I pay close attention to my child when we are spending time together.	1	2	3	4	5
25. I am kind to my child when he/she is upset.	1	2	3	4	5
26. When I am having a hard time with parenting, I feel like other parents must have an easier time of it.	1	2	3	4	5
27. When my child is going through a difficult time, I try to give him/her the nurturing and caring he/she needs.	1	2	3	4	5
28. I try to understand my child's point of view, even when his/her opinions do not makes sense to me.	1	2	3	4	5

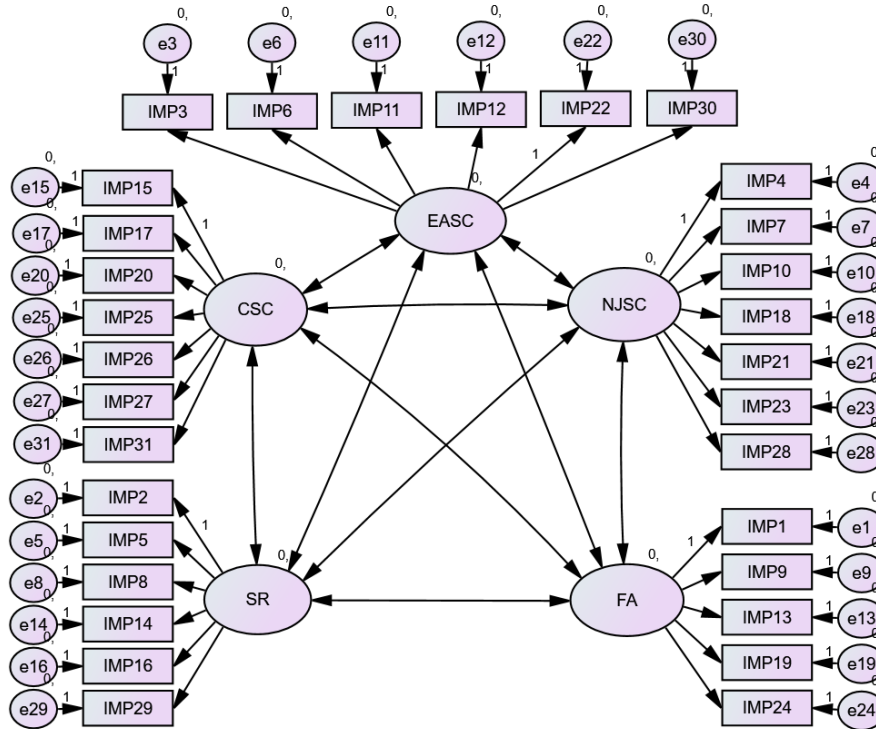
29. When something my child does upsets me, I get carried away with my feelings.	1	2	3	4	5
30. I can tell what my child is feeling even if he/she does not say anything.	1	2	3	4	5
31. I try to be understanding and patient with my child when he/she is having a hard time.	1	2	3	4	5



# Appendix B6

## Model fit for children

### Duncan et al. (2009) model (Model C.1)



**Regression Weights: (Children - Default model)**

	Estimate	S.E.	C.R.	P
IMP1 <--- FA	1.000			
IMP9 <--- FA	1.186	.083	14.354	***
IMP13 <--- FA	1.221	.087	14.041	***
IMP19 <--- FA	1.221	.085	14.364	***
IMP24 <--- FA	.954	.069	13.723	***
IMP15 <--- CSC	1.000			
IMP17 <--- CSC	1.041	.155	6.734	***
IMP20 <--- CSC	1.057	.145	7.304	***
IMP25 <--- CSC	.777	.104	7.440	***
IMP26 <--- CSC	1.375	.185	7.421	***
IMP2 <--- SR	1.000			
IMP5 <--- SR	1.155	.107	10.781	***
IMP8 <--- SR	.976	.100	9.756	***
IMP14 <--- SR	1.391	.121	11.490	***
IMP16 <--- SR	1.118	.107	10.490	***
IMP4 <--- NJSC	1.000			
IMP7 <--- NJSC	.805	.105	7.636	***
IMP10 <--- NJSC	.673	.114	5.924	***
IMP18 <--- NJSC	1.268	.132	9.569	***
IMP21 <--- NJSC	1.348	.132	10.199	***
IMP23 <--- NJSC	1.697	.169	10.045	***
IMP22 <--- EASC	1.000			

	Estimate	S.E.	C.R.	P
IMP30 <--- EASC	1.065	.076	13.932	***
IMP27 <--- CSC	.786	.104	7.535	***
IMP12 <--- EASC	1.145	.086	13.260	***
IMP11 <--- EASC	.580	.090	6.412	***
IMP6 <--- EASC	.301	.078	3.846	***
IMP3 <--- EASC	.105	.084	1.254	.210
IMP31 <--- CSC	.853	.111	7.711	***
IMP28 <--- NJSC	.882	.099	8.920	***
IMP29 <--- SR	1.378	.119	11.539	***

**Standardized Regression Weights: (Children - Default model)**

	Estimate		Estimate
IMP1 <--- FA	.719	IMP7 <--- NJSC	.433
IMP9 <--- FA	.777	IMP10 <--- NJSC	.321
IMP13 <--- FA	.759	IMP18 <--- NJSC	.586
IMP19 <--- FA	.777	IMP21 <--- NJSC	.645
IMP24 <--- FA	.741	IMP23 <--- NJSC	.630
IMP15 <--- CSC	.458	IMP22 <--- EASC	.740
IMP17 <--- CSC	.463	IMP30 <--- EASC	.819
IMP20 <--- CSC	.532	IMP27 <--- CSC	.564
IMP25 <--- CSC	.551	IMP12 <--- EASC	.747
IMP26 <--- CSC	.548	IMP11 <--- EASC	.353
IMP2 <--- SR	.595	IMP6 <--- EASC	.212
IMP5 <--- SR	.683	IMP3 <--- EASC	.069
IMP8 <--- SR	.596	IMP31 <--- CSC	.590
IMP14 <--- SR	.750	IMP28 <--- NJSC	.531
IMP16 <--- SR	.657	IMP29 <--- SR	.755
IMP4 <--- NJSC	.548		

**Model fit summary**

Model	NPAR	CMIN	DF	P	CMIN/DF
Default model	103	1698.703	424	.000	4.006
Saturated model	527	.000	0		
Independence model	62	5561.000	465	.000	11.959

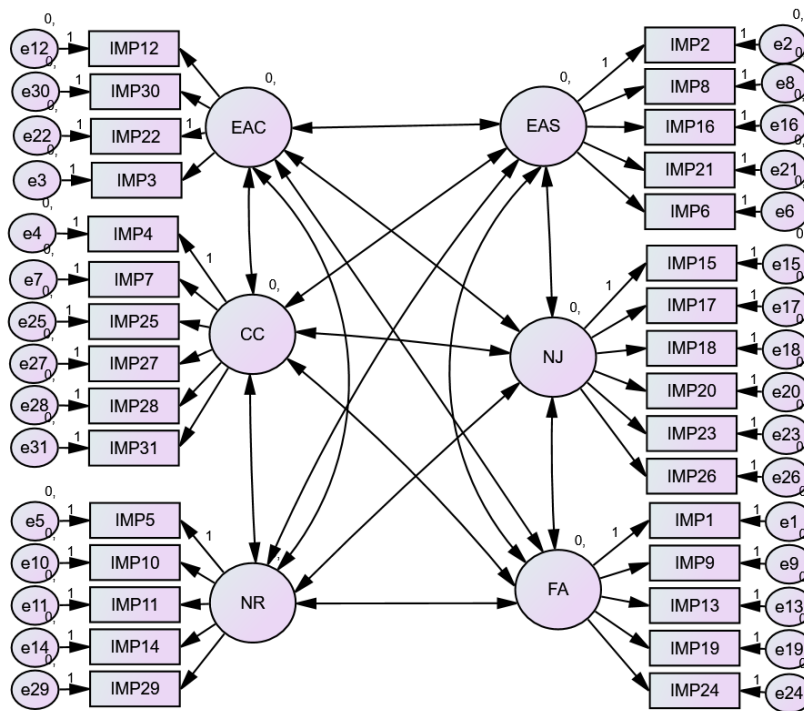
**Baseline comparisons**

Model	NFI Delta1	RFI rho1	IFI Delta2	TLI rho2	CFI
Default model	.695	.665	.752	.726	.750
Saturated model	1.000		1.000		1.000
Independence model	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000

**RMSEA**

Model	RMSEA	LO 90	HI 90	PCLOSE
Default model	.087	.083	.092	.000
Independence model	.167	.163	.170	.000

de Bruin et al. (2014) - 31-item model (Model C.2)



Regression Weights: (Children - Default model)

	Estimate	S.E.	C.R.	P
IMP1 <--- FA	1.000			
IMP9 <--- FA	1.194	.083	14.423	***
IMP13 <--- FA	1.227	.087	14.087	***
IMP19 <--- FA	1.222	.085	14.364	***
IMP24 <--- FA	.947	.070	13.610	***
IMP2 <--- EAS	1.000			
IMP8 <--- EAS	.946	.086	11.029	***
IMP16 <--- EAS	1.036	.090	11.527	***
IMP21 <--- EAS	1.249	.099	12.651	***
IMP4 <--- CC	1.000			
IMP7 <--- CC	.909	.096	9.512	***
IMP25 <--- CC	.911	.085	10.657	***
IMP27 <--- CC	.959	.086	11.209	***
IMP28 <--- CC	1.025	.090	11.422	***
IMP5 <--- NR	1.000			
IMP10 <--- NR	.520	.082	6.360	***
IMP11 <--- NR	.997	.084	11.861	***
IMP14 <--- NR	1.190	.084	14.134	***
IMP29 <--- NR	1.159	.083	14.004	***
IMP15 <--- NJ	1.000			
IMP17 <--- NJ	1.037	.084	12.360	***
IMP18 <--- NJ	.799	.070	11.419	***
IMP20 <--- NJ	.774	.073	10.584	***
IMP23 <--- NJ	1.273	.090	14.111	***
IMP26 <--- NJ	1.057	.093	11.375	***
IMP22 <--- EAC	1.000			
IMP30 <--- EAC	1.091	.078	14.067	***

	Estimate	S.E.	C.R.	P
IMP12 <--- EAC	1.117	.085	13.170	***
IMP31 <--- CC	1.013	.089	11.357	***
IMP6 <--- EAS	.060	.079	.764	.445
IMP3 <--- EAC	.127	.083	1.526	.127

**Standardized Regression Weights: (Children - Default model)**

	Estimate
IMP1 <--- FA	.719
IMP9 <--- FA	.781
IMP13 <--- FA	.762
IMP19 <--- FA	.778
IMP24 <--- FA	.735
IMP2 <--- EAS	.666
IMP8 <--- EAS	.647
IMP16 <--- EAS	.682
IMP21 <--- EAS	.768
IMP4 <--- CC	.632
IMP7 <--- CC	.565
IMP25 <--- CC	.650
IMP27 <--- CC	.694
IMP28 <--- CC	.712
IMP5 <--- NR	.708
IMP10 <--- NR	.340

	Estimate
IMP11 <--- NR	.640
IMP14 <--- NR	.769
IMP29 <--- NR	.761
IMP15 <--- NJ	.693
IMP17 <--- NJ	.698
IMP18 <--- NJ	.640
IMP20 <--- NJ	.589
IMP23 <--- NJ	.818
IMP26 <--- NJ	.637
IMP22 <--- EAC	.743
IMP30 <--- EAC	.842
IMP12 <--- EAC	.731
IMP31 <--- CC	.707
IMP6 <--- EAS	.042
IMP3 <--- EAC	.084

**Model Fit Summary**

**CMIN**

Model	NPAR	CMIN	DF	P	CMIN/DF
Default model	108	944.811	419	.000	2.255
Saturated model	527	.000	0		
Independence model	62	5561.000	465	.000	11.959

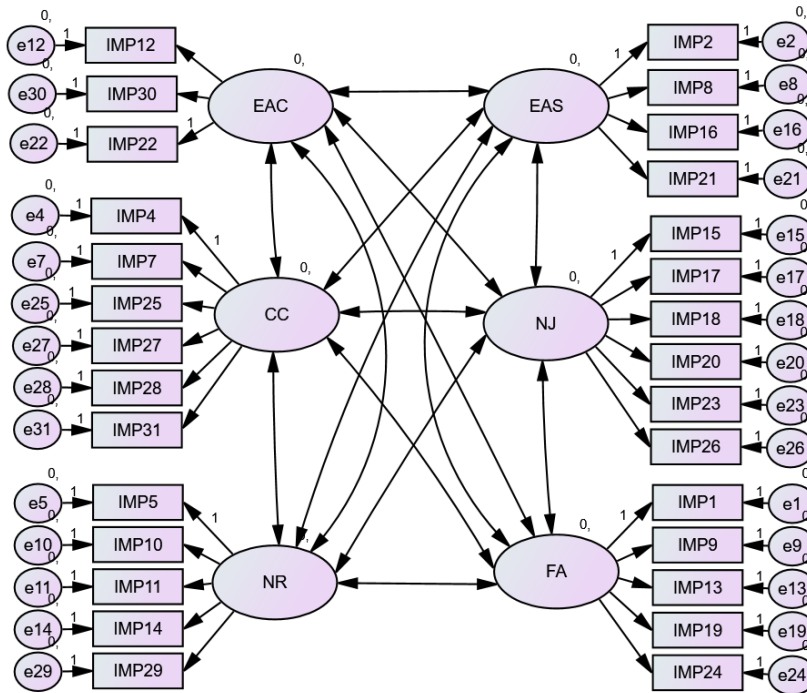
**Baseline Comparisons**

Model	NFI Delta1	RFI rho1	IFI Delta2	TLI rho2	CFI
Default model	.830	.811	.898	.885	.897
Saturated model	1.000		1.000		1.000
Independence model	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000

**RMSEA**

Model	RMSEA	LO 90	HI 90	PCLOSE
Default model	.056	.052	.061	.015
Independence model	.167	.163	.170	.000

de Bruin et al. (2014) - 29-item model (Model C.3)



Standardized Regression Weights: (Children - Default model)

	Estimate
IMP1 <--- FA	.719
IMP9 <--- FA	.781
IMP13 <--- FA	.762
IMP19 <--- FA	.778
IMP24 <--- FA	.735
IMP2 <--- EAS	.665
IMP8 <--- EAS	.646
IMP16 <--- EAS	.682
IMP21 <--- EAS	.768
IMP4 <--- CC	.632
IMP7 <--- CC	.564
IMP25 <--- CC	.650
IMP27 <--- CC	.695
IMP28 <--- CC	.712
IMP5 <--- NR	.708

	Estimate
IMP10 <--- NR	.340
IMP11 <--- NR	.640
IMP14 <--- NR	.768
IMP29 <--- NR	.761
IMP15 <--- NJ	.693
IMP17 <--- NJ	.698
IMP18 <--- NJ	.640
IMP20 <--- NJ	.589
IMP23 <--- NJ	.818
IMP26 <--- NJ	.637
IMP22 <--- EAC	.740
IMP30 <--- EAC	.844
IMP12 <--- EAC	.732
IMP31 <--- CC	.707

Model Fit Summary

CMIN

Model	NPAR	CMIN	DF	P	CMIN/DF
Default model	102	764.357	362	.000	2.111
Saturated model	464	.000	0		
Independence model	58	5377.678	406	.000	13.246

**Baseline Comparisons**

Model	NFI Delta1	RFI rho1	IFI Delta2	TLI rho2	CFI
Default model	.858	.841	.920	.909	.919
Saturated model	1.000		1.000		1.000
Independence model	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000

**RMSEA**

Model	RMSEA	LO 90	HI 90	PCLOSE
Default model	.053	.048	.058	.166
Independence model	.176	.172	.180	.000

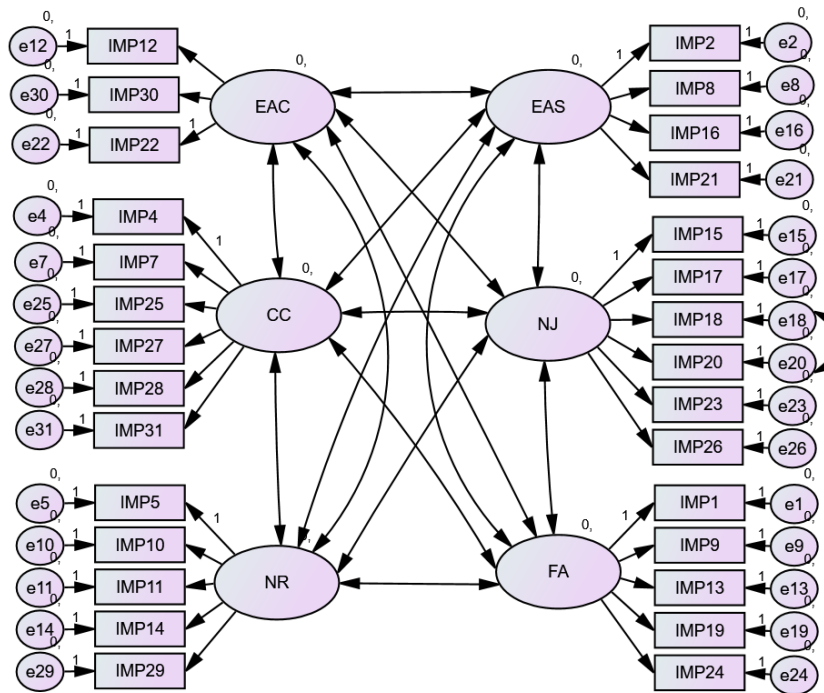
**Modification Indices (Children - Default model)**

**Covariances: (Children - Default model)**

	M.I.	Par Change
e12 <--> e31	6.743	-.038
e26 <--> e12	9.412	.082
e23 <--> FA	10.250	.050
e20 <--> NR	15.254	-.052
e20 <--> EAS	25.361	.072
e20 <--> e23	14.954	-.101
e18 <--> CC	7.315	.034
e18 <--> e23	7.433	-.065
e18 <--> e20	28.308	.135
e17 <--> NJ	8.993	.065
e15 <--> EAC	8.725	-.055
e15 <--> e17	12.272	.101
e29 <--> FA	12.245	-.044
e14 <--> e29	6.992	.044
e11 <--> FA	20.272	.066
e11 <--> e12	10.059	.063
e10 <--> NJ	8.578	.066
e25 <--> e20	6.117	-.047
e25 <--> e28	13.523	-.046
e25 <--> e27	16.582	.049
e4 <--> CC	7.955	-.029
e4 <--> FA	13.330	.047
e4 <--> e27	19.186	-.061
e4 <--> e7	11.328	.061

	M.I.	Par Change
e21 <--> e5	6.254	.042
e16 <--> CC	6.156	.027
e16 <--> e20	12.623	.079
e8 <--> e7	8.574	.054
e2 <--> CC	6.886	-.029
e2 <--> e21	8.099	.049
e24 <--> NR	17.667	-.036
e24 <--> CC	24.264	.044
e24 <--> EAS	10.405	.030
e24 <--> e20	8.718	.054
e24 <--> e18	12.235	.058
e24 <--> e17	6.630	-.049
e24 <--> e5	6.353	-.035
e24 <--> e16	6.542	.037
e19 <--> e23	6.795	.052
e19 <--> e18	11.787	-.066
e19 <--> e11	15.471	.075
e13 <--> e17	7.219	.061
e13 <--> e16	10.717	-.058
e9 <--> EAS	6.132	-.026
e1 <--> e5	6.077	.038
e1 <--> e19	6.967	.040

de Bruin et al. (2014) - 29-item model (Model C.4)



Standardized Regression Weights: (Children - Default model)

	Estimate		Estimate
IMP1 <--- FA	.719	IMP10 <--- NR	.340
IMP9 <--- FA	.781	IMP11 <--- NR	.639
IMP13 <--- FA	.762	IMP14 <--- NR	.769
IMP19 <--- FA	.778	IMP29 <--- NR	.762
IMP24 <--- FA	.734	IMP15 <--- NJ	.696
IMP2 <--- EAS	.666	IMP17 <--- NJ	.691
IMP8 <--- EAS	.646	IMP18 <--- NJ	.605
IMP16 <--- EAS	.681	IMP20 <--- NJ	.548
IMP21 <--- EAS	.768	IMP23 <--- NJ	.838
IMP4 <--- CC	.632	IMP26 <--- NJ	.642
IMP7 <--- CC	.565	IMP22 <--- EAC	.740
IMP25 <--- CC	.650	IMP30 <--- EAC	.844
IMP27 <--- CC	.695	IMP12 <--- EAC	.732
IMP28 <--- CC	.712	IMP31 <--- CC	.707
IMP5 <--- NR	.708		

Model Fit Summary

CMIN

Model	NPAR	CMIN	DF	P	CMIN/DF
Default model	103	733.532	361	.000	2.032
Saturated model	464	.000	0		
Independence model	58	5377.678	406	.000	13.246

Baseline Comparisons

Model	NFI Delta1	RFI rho1	IFI Delta2	TLI rho2	CFI
Default model	.864	.847	.926	.916	.925
Saturated model	1.000		1.000		1.000
Independence model	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000

**RMSEA**

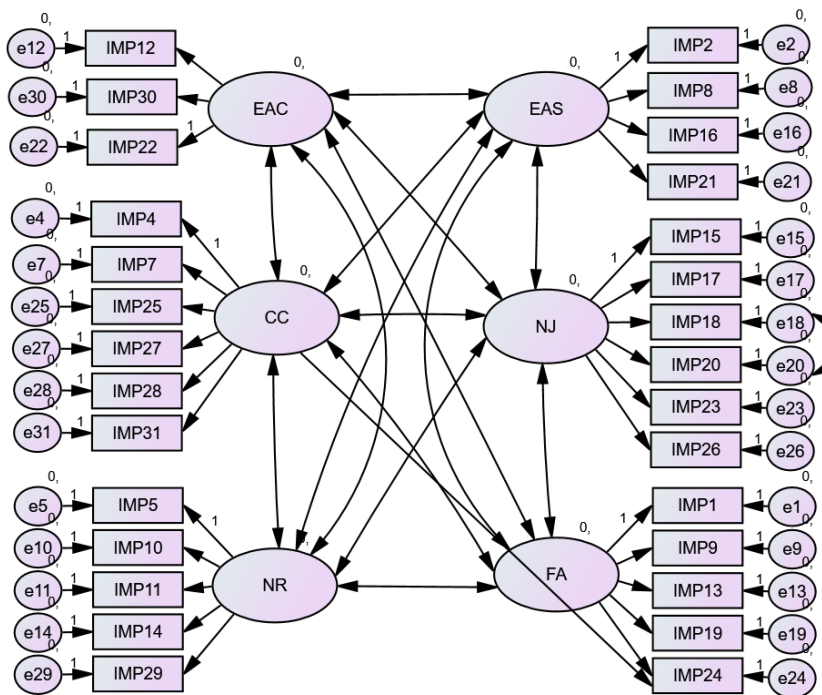
Model	RMSEA	LO 90	HI 90	PCLOSE
Default model	.051	.046	.056	.358
Independence model	.176	.172	.180	.000

**Modification Indices (Children - Default model)**

**Regression Weights: (Children - Default model)**

		M.I.	Par Change
IMP26 <---	EAC	6.840	.255
IMP23 <---	FA	7.426	.195
IMP18 <---	CC	19.003	.345
IMP18 <---	EAS	11.108	.238
IMP18 <---	EAC	15.390	.278
IMP17 <---	NR	8.240	-.221
IMP17 <---	CC	12.479	-.330
IMP17 <---	EAS	13.453	-.308
IMP17 <---	FA	6.978	-.211
IMP15 <---	CC	12.902	-.324
IMP15 <---	EAS	8.473	-.237
IMP15 <---	FA	14.458	-.295
IMP15 <---	EAC	20.073	-.362
IMP11 <---	FA	10.419	.223
IMP4 <---	FA	11.331	.202
IMP24 <---	CC	21.494	.273
IMP24 <---	EAS	6.004	.130
IMP24 <---	EAC	10.200	.168

**de Bruin et al. (2014) - 29-item model (Model C.5)**





**Standardized Regression Weights: (Children - Default model)**

	Estimate		Estimate
IMP1 <--- FA	.724	IMP10 <--- NR	.339
IMP9 <--- FA	.785	IMP11 <--- NR	.641
IMP13 <--- FA	.769	IMP14 <--- NR	.769
IMP19 <--- FA	.784	IMP29 <--- NR	.760
IMP24 <--- FA	.537	IMP15 <--- NJ	.695
IMP2 <--- EAS	.664	IMP17 <--- NJ	.692
IMP8 <--- EAS	.647	IMP18 <--- NJ	.604
IMP16 <--- EAS	.683	IMP20 <--- NJ	.548
IMP21 <--- EAS	.767	IMP23 <--- NJ	.838
IMP4 <--- CC	.636	IMP26 <--- NJ	.642
IMP7 <--- CC	.567	IMP22 <--- EAC	.739
IMP25 <--- CC	.648	IMP30 <--- EAC	.845
IMP27 <--- CC	.694	IMP12 <--- EAC	.732
IMP28 <--- CC	.714	IMP31 <--- CC	.703
IMP5 <--- NR	.709	IMP24 <--- CC	.318

**Model Fit Summary**

**CMIN**

Model	NPAR	CMIN	DF	P	CMIN/DF
Default model	104	693.409	360	.000	1.926
Saturated model	464	.000	0		
Independence model	58	5377.678	406	.000	13.246

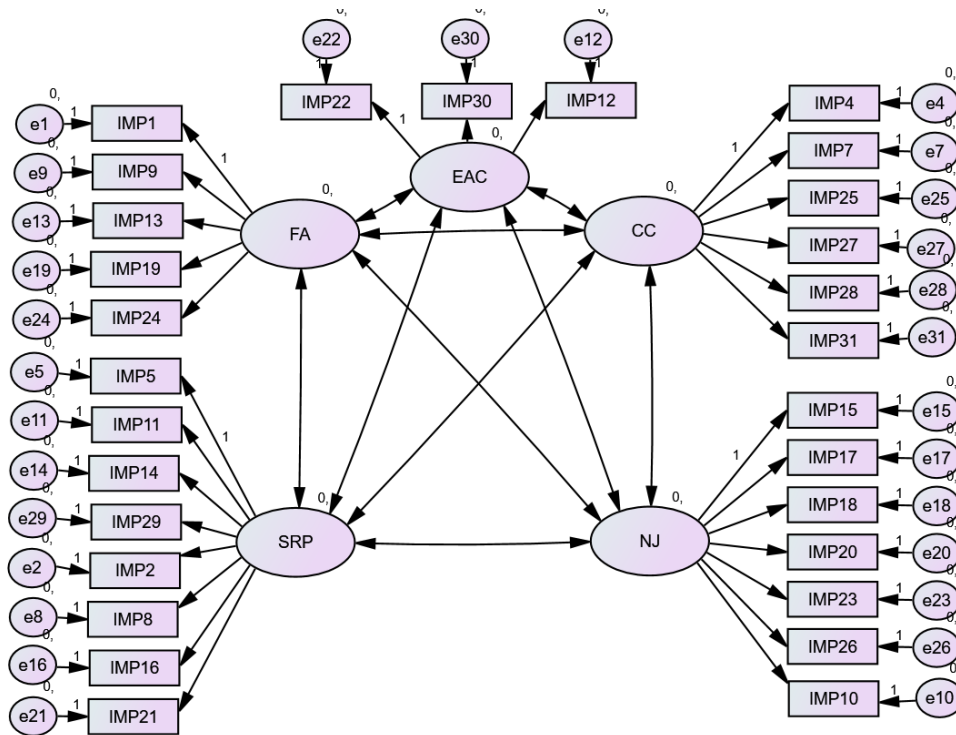
**Baseline Comparisons**

Model	NFI Delta1	RFI rho1	IFI Delta2	TLI rho2	CFI
Default model	.871	.855	.934	.924	.933
Saturated model	1.000		1.000		1.000
Independence model	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000

**RMSEA**

Model	RMSEA	LO 90	HI 90	PCLOSE
Default model	.048	.043	.054	.678
Independence model	.176	.172	.180	.000

Moreira and Canavarro (2017) – 29-item model (Model C.6)



Standardized Regression Weights: (Children - Default model)

	Estimate
IMP1 <--- FA	.719
IMP9 <--- FA	.777
IMP13 <--- FA	.760
IMP19 <--- FA	.777
IMP24 <--- FA	.741
IMP4 <--- CC	.630
IMP7 <--- CC	.561
IMP25 <--- CC	.653
IMP27 <--- CC	.697
IMP28 <--- CC	.711
IMP5 <--- SRP	.696
IMP11 <--- SRP	.619
IMP14 <--- SRP	.754
IMP29 <--- SRP	.753
IMP15 <--- NJ	.687

	Estimate
IMP17 <--- NJ	.696
IMP18 <--- NJ	.648
IMP20 <--- NJ	.607
IMP23 <--- NJ	.809
IMP26 <--- NJ	.632
IMP22 <--- EAC	.741
IMP30 <--- EAC	.842
IMP31 <--- CC	.707
IMP10 <--- NJ	.364
IMP12 <--- EAC	.733
IMP2 <--- SRP	.608
IMP8 <--- SRP	.591
IMP16 <--- SRP	.647
IMP21 <--- SRP	.719

Model Fit Summary

CMIN

Model	NPAR	CMIN	DF	P	CMIN/DF
Default model	97	835.128	367	.000	2.276
Saturated model	464	.000	0		
Independence model	58	5377.678	406	.000	13.246

**Baseline Comparisons**

Model	NFI Delta1	RFI rho1	IFI Delta2	TLI rho2	CFI
Default model	.845	.828	.907	.896	.906
Saturated model	1.000		1.000		1.000
Independence model	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000

**RMSEA**

Model	RMSEA	LO 90	HI 90	PCLOSE
Default model	.057	.052	.062	.014
Independence model	.176	.172	.180	.000

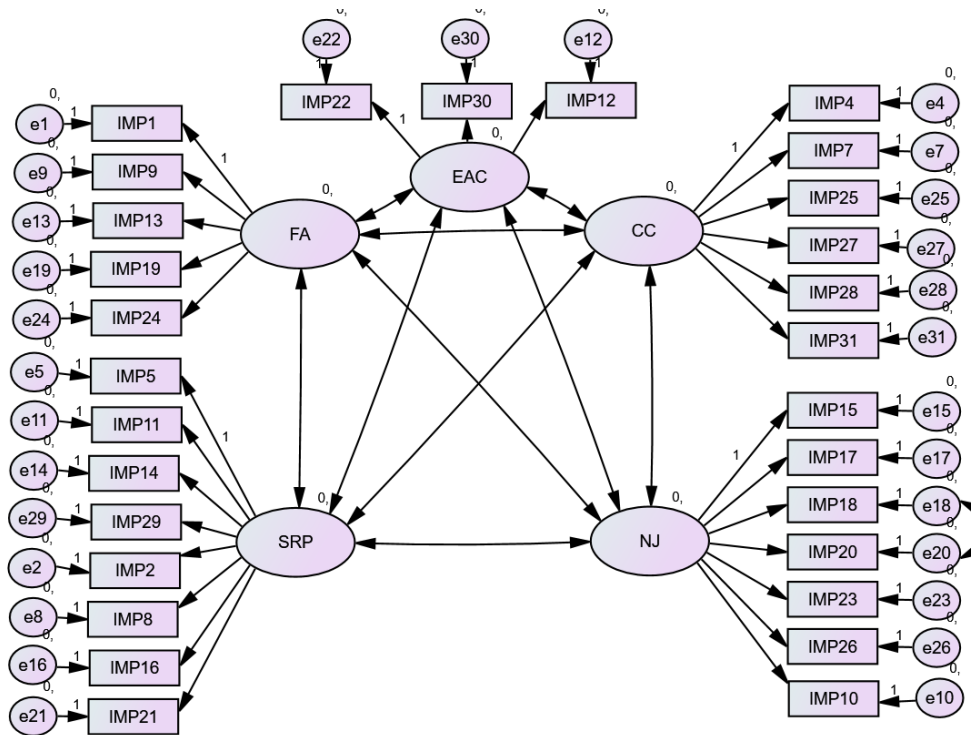
**Modification Indices (Children - Default model)**

**Covariances: (Children - Default model)**

	M.I.	Par Change
e16 <--> CC	9.781	.034
e16 <--> FA	6.529	-.034
e8 <--> CC	7.023	.029
e2 <--> NJ	10.325	-.058
e2 <--> SRP	7.167	.031
e2 <--> e21	26.662	.096
e31 <--> e12	6.895	-.038
e26 <--> e12	9.050	.081
e23 <--> FA	11.338	.054
e20 <--> e16	16.611	.091
e20 <--> e23	18.287	-.111
e18 <--> CC	7.903	.035
e18 <--> e23	7.487	-.065
e18 <--> e20	24.058	.122
e17 <--> NJ	11.111	.074
e17 <--> SRP	10.006	-.046
e15 <--> NJ	6.848	.057
e15 <--> EAC	8.767	-.055
e15 <--> e17	13.551	.107
e29 <--> NJ	7.236	.045
e29 <--> e20	7.053	-.057
e14 <--> e8	7.156	-.048
e14 <--> e20	6.253	-.054
e14 <--> e29	11.345	.057
e11 <--> FA	26.861	.078
e11 <--> e12	10.385	.065

	M.I.	Par Change
e5 <--> FA	6.859	.033
e27 <--> e10	6.367	-.047
e25 <--> e28	14.019	-.046
e25 <--> e27	15.722	.048
e7 <--> e8	10.204	.061
e4 <--> CC	7.532	-.029
e4 <--> FA	12.962	.047
e4 <--> e27	19.257	-.061
e4 <--> e7	11.911	.062
e24 <--> CC	29.589	.048
e24 <--> e16	12.309	.052
e24 <--> e8	6.700	.038
e24 <--> e20	7.323	.048
e24 <--> e18	10.979	.055
e24 <--> e17	7.876	-.053
e24 <--> e5	10.658	-.046
e19 <--> e23	6.815	.053
e19 <--> e18	12.491	-.068
e19 <--> e11	17.592	.081
e19 <--> e5	7.321	.044
e13 <--> e16	14.357	-.068
e13 <--> e17	8.143	.066
e13 <--> e14	8.757	.052
e1 <--> e5	7.201	.041
e1 <--> e19	7.063	.040

Moreira and Canavarro (2017) – 29-item model (Model C.7)



Standardized Regression Weights: (Children - Default model)

	Estimate		Estimate
IMP1 <--- FA	.719	IMP17 <--- NJ	.692
IMP9 <--- FA	.778	IMP18 <--- NJ	.613
IMP13 <--- FA	.760	IMP20 <--- NJ	.567
IMP19 <--- FA	.777	IMP23 <--- NJ	.830
IMP24 <--- FA	.740	IMP26 <--- NJ	.638
IMP4 <--- CC	.630	IMP22 <--- EAC	.741
IMP7 <--- CC	.562	IMP30 <--- EAC	.842
IMP25 <--- CC	.653	IMP31 <--- CC	.707
IMP27 <--- CC	.697	IMP10 <--- NJ	.360
IMP28 <--- CC	.712	IMP12 <--- EAC	.733
IMP5 <--- SRP	.697	IMP2 <--- SRP	.608
IMP11 <--- SRP	.619	IMP8 <--- SRP	.590
IMP14 <--- SRP	.755	IMP16 <--- SRP	.646
IMP29 <--- SRP	.754	IMP21 <--- SRP	.719
IMP15 <--- NJ	.692		

Model Fit Summary

CMIN

Model	NPAR	CMIN	DF	P	CMIN/DF
Default model	98	808.737	366	.000	2.210
Saturated model	464	.000	0		
Independence model	58	5377.678	406	.000	13.246

**Baseline Comparisons**

Model	NFI Delta1	RFI rho1	IFI Delta2	TLI rho2	CFI
Default model	.850	.833	.912	.901	.911
Saturated model	1.000		1.000		1.000
Independence model	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000

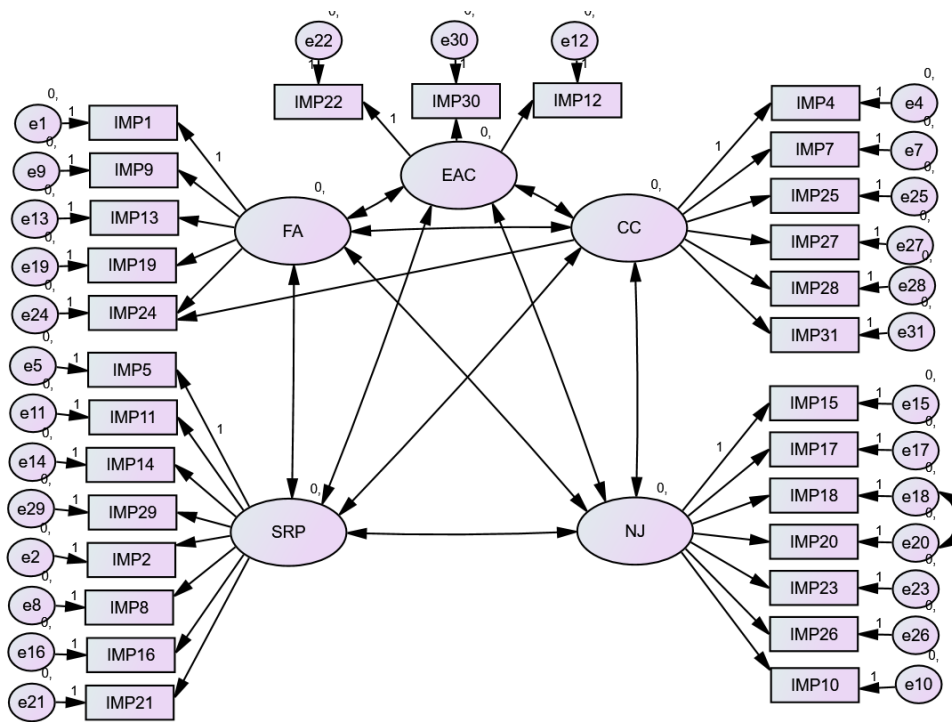
**RMSEA**

Model	RMSEA	LO 90	HI 90	PCLOSE
Default model	.055	.050	.060	.044
Independence model	.176	.172	.180	.000

**Modification Indices (Children - Default model)****Regression Weights: (Children - Default model)**

	M.I.	Par Change
IMP26 <--- EAC	6.931	.257
IMP23 <--- FA	7.316	.196
IMP18 <--- SRP	7.651	.183
IMP18 <--- CC	18.361	.341
IMP18 <--- EAC	15.262	.277
IMP17 <--- SRP	11.595	-.266
IMP17 <--- CC	13.617	-.346
IMP17 <--- FA	7.379	-.218
IMP15 <--- SRP	6.699	-.196
IMP15 <--- CC	13.441	-.334
IMP15 <--- FA	14.538	-.297
IMP15 <--- EAC	20.020	-.363
IMP11 <--- FA	14.818	.270
IMP4 <--- NJ	6.292	.117
IMP4 <--- FA	11.687	.205
IMP24 <--- CC	19.696	.261
IMP24 <--- EAC	9.440	.161

Moreira and Canavarro (2017) – 29-item model (Model C.8)



Standardized Regression Weights: (Children - Default model)

	Estimate
IMP1 <--- FA	.719
IMP9 <--- FA	.778
IMP13 <--- FA	.760
IMP19 <--- FA	.777
IMP24 <--- FA	.739
IMP4 <--- CC	.629
IMP7 <--- CC	.562
IMP25 <--- CC	.653
IMP27 <--- CC	.697
IMP28 <--- CC	.712
IMP5 <--- SRP	.699
IMP11 <--- SRP	.624
IMP14 <--- SRP	.760
IMP29 <--- SRP	.761
IMP15 <--- NJ	.692

	Estimate
IMP17 <--- NJ	.691
IMP18 <--- NJ	.613
IMP20 <--- NJ	.566
IMP23 <--- NJ	.831
IMP26 <--- NJ	.639
IMP22 <--- EAC	.741
IMP30 <--- EAC	.842
IMP31 <--- CC	.707
IMP10 <--- NJ	.361
IMP12 <--- EAC	.733
IMP2 <--- SRP	.575
IMP8 <--- SRP	.582
IMP16 <--- SRP	.642
IMP21 <--- SRP	.696

Model Fit Summary

CMIN

Model	NPAR	CMIN	DF	P	CMIN/DF
Default model	99	780.156	365	.000	2.137
Saturated model	464	.000	0		
Independence model	58	5377.678	406	.000	13.246

**Baseline Comparisons**

Model	NFI Delta1	RFI rho1	IFI Delta2	TLI rho2	CFI
Default model	.855	.839	.917	.907	.916
Saturated model	1.000		1.000		1.000
Independence model	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000

**RMSEA**

Model	RMSEA	LO 90	HI 90	PCLOSE
Default model	.054	.048	.059	.121
Independence model	.176	.172	.180	.000

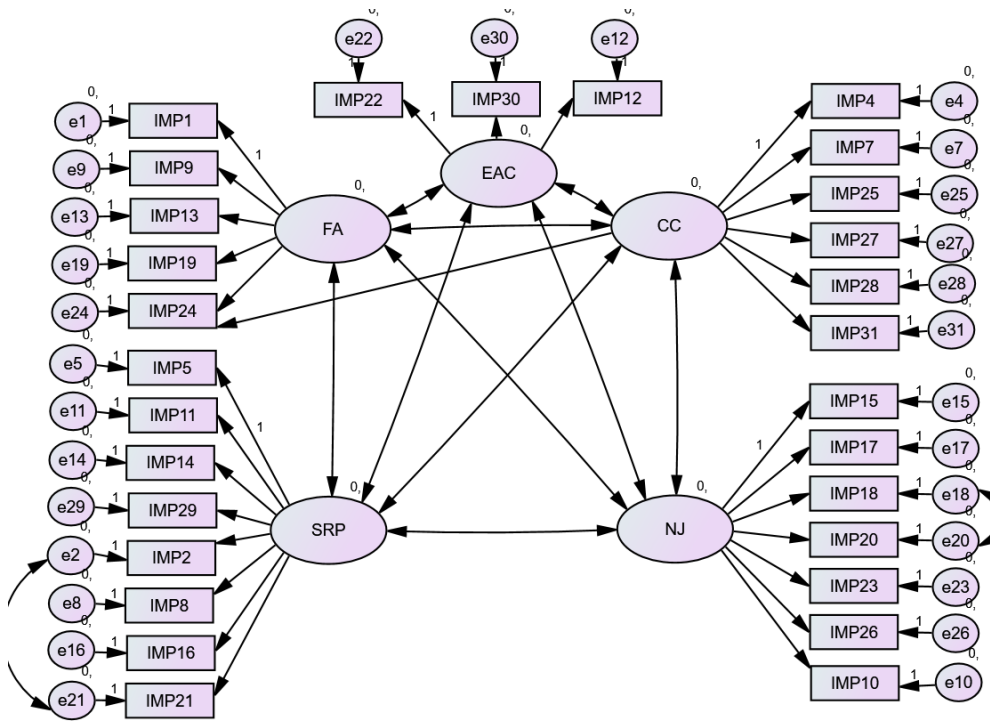
**Modification Indices (Children - Default model)**

**Covariances: (Children - Default model)**

	M.I.	Par Change
e21 <--> NJ	6.372	-.045
e16 <--> CC	9.591	.034
e16 <--> FA	6.210	-.034
e8 <--> CC	6.848	.029
e2 <--> NJ	11.345	-.062
e2 <--> SRP	7.509	.032
e2 <--> e21	26.941	.096
e31 <--> e12	6.866	-.038
e26 <--> e12	8.744	.079
e23 <--> FA	9.967	.049
e20 <--> e16	13.013	.078
e20 <--> e23	8.607	-.073
e18 <--> CC	6.060	.030
e17 <--> NJ	9.895	.071
e17 <--> SRP	8.925	-.044
e17 <--> e20	6.672	.072
e15 <--> NJ	7.015	.058
e15 <--> FA	6.011	-.041
e15 <--> EAC	8.600	-.055
e15 <--> e17	13.460	.106
e29 <--> NJ	8.383	.049
e14 <--> e8	7.168	-.048
e14 <--> e29	10.892	.055
e11 <--> FA	26.681	.078
e11 <--> e12	10.338	.065

	M.I.	Par Change
e5 <--> FA	6.741	.033
e27 <--> e10	6.297	-.047
e25 <--> e28	14.009	-.046
e25 <--> e27	15.835	.048
e7 <--> e8	10.177	.061
e4 <--> CC	7.476	-.028
e4 <--> FA	12.956	.047
e4 <--> e27	19.188	-.061
e4 <--> e7	11.864	.062
e24 <--> CC	29.029	.048
e24 <--> e16	12.517	.052
e24 <--> e8	6.852	.039
e24 <--> e18	6.952	.042
e24 <--> e17	6.490	-.048
e24 <--> e5	10.483	-.045
e19 <--> e23	6.250	.050
e19 <--> e18	14.024	-.070
e19 <--> e11	17.486	.081
e19 <--> e5	7.237	.044
e13 <--> e16	14.208	-.068
e13 <--> e17	7.711	.064
e13 <--> e14	8.696	.051
e1 <--> e5	7.140	.041
e1 <--> e19	6.981	.040

Moreira and Canavarro (2017) – 29-item model (Model C.9)



Standardized Regression Weights: (Children - Default model)

	Estimate
IMP1 <--- FA	.725
IMP9 <--- FA	.782
IMP13 <--- FA	.767
IMP19 <--- FA	.784
IMP24 <--- FA	.550
IMP4 <--- CC	.632
IMP7 <--- CC	.564
IMP25 <--- CC	.652
IMP27 <--- CC	.698
IMP28 <--- CC	.714
IMP5 <--- SRP	.698
IMP11 <--- SRP	.623
IMP14 <--- SRP	.760
IMP29 <--- SRP	.761
IMP15 <--- NJ	.692

	Estimate
IMP17 <--- NJ	.691
IMP18 <--- NJ	.612
IMP20 <--- NJ	.565
IMP23 <--- NJ	.831
IMP26 <--- NJ	.639
IMP22 <--- EAC	.740
IMP30 <--- EAC	.843
IMP31 <--- CC	.705
IMP10 <--- NJ	.361
IMP12 <--- EAC	.733
IMP2 <--- SRP	.576
IMP8 <--- SRP	.583
IMP16 <--- SRP	.643
IMP21 <--- SRP	.697
IMP24 <--- CC	.304

Model Fit Summary

CMIN

Model	NPAR	CMIN	DF	P	CMIN/DF
Default model	100	743.533	364	.000	2.043
Saturated model	464	.000	0		
Independence model	58	5377.678	406	.000	13.246



**Baseline Comparisons**

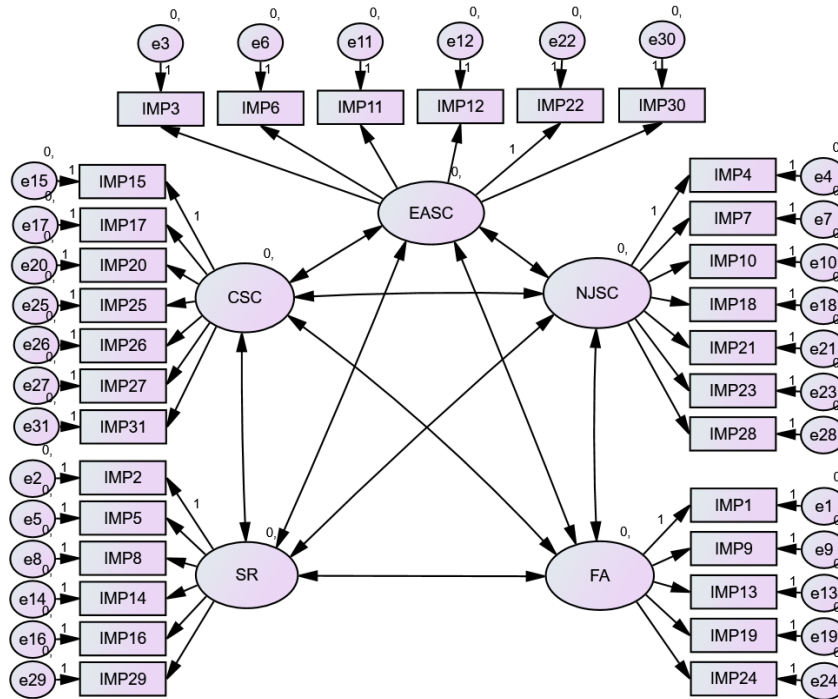
Model	NFI Delta1	RFI rho1	IFI Delta2	TLI rho2	CFI
Default model	.862	.846	.924	.915	.924
Saturated model	1.000		1.000		1.000
Independence model	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000

**RMSEA**

Model	RMSEA	LO 90	HI 90	PCLOSE
Default model	.051	.046	.057	.327
Independence model	.176	.172	.180	.000

## Model fit for infants

Duncan et al. (2009) model (Model I.1)



**Regression Weights: (Infants - Default model)**

	Estimate	S.E.	C.R.	P
IMP1 <--- FA	1.000			
IMP9 <--- FA	1.055	.104	10.177	***
IMP13 <--- FA	1.141	.108	10.531	***
IMP19 <--- FA	1.178	.108	10.946	***
IMP24 <--- FA	.920	.087	10.561	***
IMP15 <--- CSC	1.000			
IMP17 <--- CSC	1.046	.192	5.463	***
IMP20 <--- CSC	1.070	.180	5.959	***
IMP25 <--- CSC	.821	.126	6.493	***
IMP26 <--- CSC	1.528	.250	6.118	***
IMP2 <--- SR	1.000			
IMP5 <--- SR	1.200	.137	8.786	***
IMP8 <--- SR	.846	.129	6.548	***
IMP14 <--- SR	1.404	.148	9.500	***
IMP16 <--- SR	1.075	.118	9.120	***
IMP4 <--- NJSC	1.000			
IMP7 <--- NJSC	1.320	.204	6.473	***
IMP10 <--- NJSC	.705	.194	3.632	***
IMP18 <--- NJSC	1.346	.215	6.263	***
IMP21 <--- NJSC	1.503	.226	6.657	***
IMP23 <--- NJSC	1.781	.299	5.966	***
IMP22 <--- EASC	1.000			
IMP30 <--- EASC	.872	.101	8.659	***
IMP27 <--- CSC	.808	.124	6.533	***
IMP12 <--- EASC	1.017	.120	8.474	***
IMP11 <--- EASC	1.028	.129	7.955	***

	Estimate	S.E.	C.R.	P
IMP6 <--- EASC	.051	.107	.477	.633
IMP3 <--- EASC	.047	.100	.470	.638
IMP31 <--- CSC	1.044	.152	6.888	***
IMP28 <--- NJSC	1.426	.216	6.609	***
IMP29 <--- SR	1.485	.151	9.834	***

**Standardized Regression Weights: (Infants - Default model)**

	Estimate		Estimate
IMP1 <--- FA	.655	IMP7 <--- NJSC	.605
IMP9 <--- FA	.685	IMP10 <--- NJSC	.240
IMP13 <--- FA	.716	IMP18 <--- NJSC	.560
IMP19 <--- FA	.755	IMP21 <--- NJSC	.651
IMP24 <--- FA	.719	IMP23 <--- NJSC	.505
IMP15 <--- CSC	.415	IMP22 <--- EASC	.609
IMP17 <--- CSC	.429	IMP30 <--- EASC	.667
IMP20 <--- CSC	.503	IMP27 <--- CSC	.616
IMP25 <--- CSC	.607	IMP12 <--- EASC	.644
IMP26 <--- CSC	.531	IMP11 <--- EASC	.587
IMP2 <--- SR	.558	IMP6 <--- EASC	.030
IMP5 <--- SR	.655	IMP3 <--- EASC	.030
IMP8 <--- SR	.437	IMP31 <--- CSC	.712
IMP14 <--- SR	.746	IMP28 <--- NJSC	.639
IMP16 <--- SR	.695	IMP29 <--- SR	.795
IMP4 <--- NJSC	.410		

**Model Fit Summary**

**CMIN**

Model	NPAR	CMIN	DF	P	CMIN/DF
Default model	103	1437.167	424	.000	3.390
Saturated model	527	.000	0		
Independence model	62	4185.866	465	.000	9.002

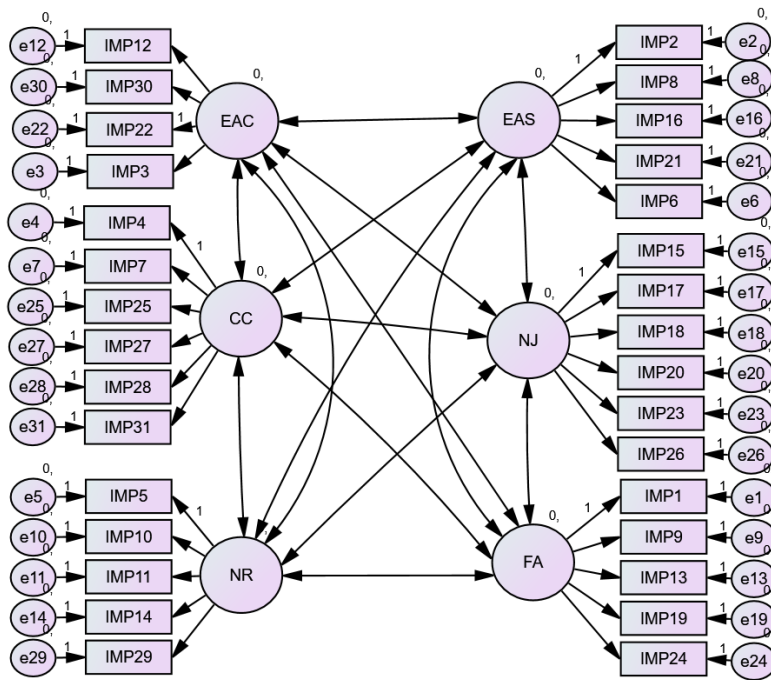
**Baseline Comparisons**

Model	NFI Delta1	RFI rho1	IFI Delta2	TLI rho2	CFI
Default model	.657	.623	.731	.701	.728
Saturated model	1.000		1.000		1.000
Independence model	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000

**RMSEA**

Model	RMSEA	LO 90	HI 90	PCLOSE
Default model	.087	.082	.091	.000
Independence model	.158	.154	.163	.000

de Bruin et al. (2014) – 31-item model (Model I.2)



Regression Weights: (Infants - Default model)

			Estimate	S.E.	C.R.	P
IMP1	<---	FA	1.000			
IMP9	<---	FA	1.056	.104	10.144	***
IMP13	<---	FA	1.144	.109	10.505	***
IMP19	<---	FA	1.183	.108	10.922	***
IMP24	<---	FA	.923	.088	10.541	***
IMP2	<---	EAS	1.000			
IMP8	<---	EAS	.823	.107	7.725	***
IMP16	<---	EAS	.948	.090	10.522	***
IMP21	<---	EAS	1.033	.098	10.495	***
IMP4	<---	CC	1.000			
IMP7	<---	CC	1.299	.183	7.079	***
IMP25	<---	CC	1.063	.149	7.113	***
IMP27	<---	CC	1.137	.154	7.397	***
IMP28	<---	CC	1.456	.198	7.344	***
IMP5	<---	NR	1.000			
IMP10	<---	NR	.287	.105	2.740	***
IMP11	<---	NR	1.067	.100	10.638	***
IMP14	<---	NR	1.156	.099	11.729	***
IMP29	<---	NR	1.246	.100	12.498	***
IMP15	<---	NJ	1.000			
IMP17	<---	NJ	1.017	.078	13.004	***
IMP18	<---	NJ	.640	.059	10.776	***
IMP20	<---	NJ	.795	.068	11.622	***
IMP23	<---	NJ	1.124	.087	12.968	***
IMP26	<---	NJ	.977	.093	10.516	***
IMP22	<---	EAC	1.000			
IMP30	<---	EAC	.880	.088	10.004	***
IMP12	<---	EAC	.864	.096	9.026	***

		Estimate	S.E.	C.R.	P
IMP31	<--- CC	1.326	.177	7.511	***
IMP6	<--- EAS	.167	.098	1.714	.087
IMP3	<--- EAC	.138	.088	1.576	.115

**Standardized Regression Weights: (Infants - Default model)**

	Estimate		Estimate
IMP1 <--- FA	.653	IMP11 <--- NR	.677
IMP9 <--- FA	.685	IMP14 <--- NR	.760
IMP13 <--- FA	.716	IMP29 <--- NR	.826
IMP19 <--- FA	.756	IMP15 <--- NJ	.755
IMP24 <--- FA	.720	IMP17 <--- NJ	.758
IMP2 <--- EAS	.650	IMP18 <--- NJ	.631
IMP8 <--- EAS	.495	IMP20 <--- NJ	.679
IMP16 <--- EAS	.715	IMP23 <--- NJ	.755
IMP21 <--- EAS	.713	IMP26 <--- NJ	.617
IMP4 <--- CC	.445	IMP22 <--- EAC	.696
IMP7 <--- CC	.646	IMP30 <--- EAC	.769
IMP25 <--- CC	.653	IMP12 <--- EAC	.625
IMP27 <--- CC	.721	IMP31 <--- CC	.752
IMP28 <--- CC	.707	IMP6 <--- EAS	.104
IMP5 <--- NR	.675	IMP3 <--- EAC	.100
IMP10 <--- NR	.165		

**Model Fit Summary**

**CMIN**

Model	NPAR	CMIN	DF	P	CMIN/DF
Default model	108	791.749	419	.000	1.890
Saturated model	527	.000	0		
Independence model	62	4185.866	465	.000	9.002

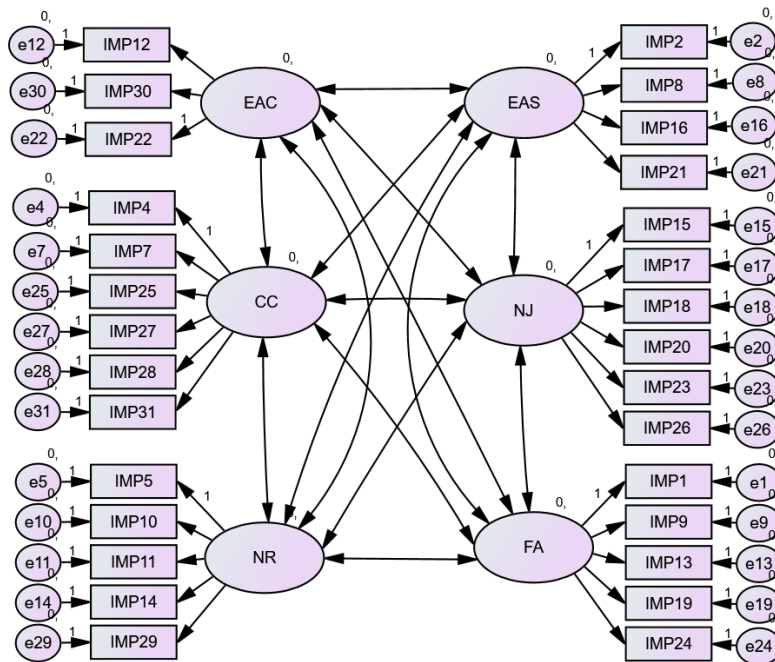
**Baseline Comparisons**

Model	NFI Delta1	RFI rho1	IFI Delta2	TLI rho2	CFI
Default model	.811	.790	.901	.889	.900
Saturated model	1.000		1.000		1.000
Independence model	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000

**RMSEA**

Model	RMSEA	LO 90	HI 90	PCLOSE
Default model	.053	.047	.058	.202
Independence model	.158	.154	.163	.000

de Bruin et al. (2014) – 29-item model (Model I.3)



Standardized Regression Weights: (Infants - Default model)

	Estimate
IMP1 <--- FA	.653
IMP9 <--- FA	.685
IMP13 <--- FA	.716
IMP19 <--- FA	.755
IMP24 <--- FA	.720
IMP2 <--- EAS	.647
IMP8 <--- EAS	.492
IMP16 <--- EAS	.716
IMP21 <--- EAS	.713
IMP4 <--- CC	.444
IMP7 <--- CC	.646
IMP25 <--- CC	.654
IMP27 <--- CC	.721
IMP28 <--- CC	.707
IMP5 <--- NR	.675

	Estimate
IMP10 <--- NR	.165
IMP11 <--- NR	.677
IMP14 <--- NR	.760
IMP29 <--- NR	.825
IMP15 <--- NJ	.754
IMP17 <--- NJ	.757
IMP18 <--- NJ	.632
IMP20 <--- NJ	.679
IMP23 <--- NJ	.755
IMP26 <--- NJ	.617
IMP22 <--- EAC	.696
IMP30 <--- EAC	.771
IMP12 <--- EAC	.623
IMP31 <--- CC	.753

Model Fit Summary

CMIN

Model	NPAR	CMIN	DF	P	CMIN/DF
Default model	102	669.273	362	.000	1.849
Saturated model	464	.000	0		
Independence model	58	4058.027	406	.000	9.995

**Baseline Comparisons**

Model	NFI Delta1	RFI rho1	IFI Delta2	TLI rho2	CFI
Default model	.835	.815	.917	.906	.916
Saturated model	1.000		1.000		1.000
Independence model	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000

**RMSEA**

Model	RMSEA	LO 90	HI 90	PCLOSE
Default model	.052	.045	.058	.328
Independence model	.168	.163	.173	.000

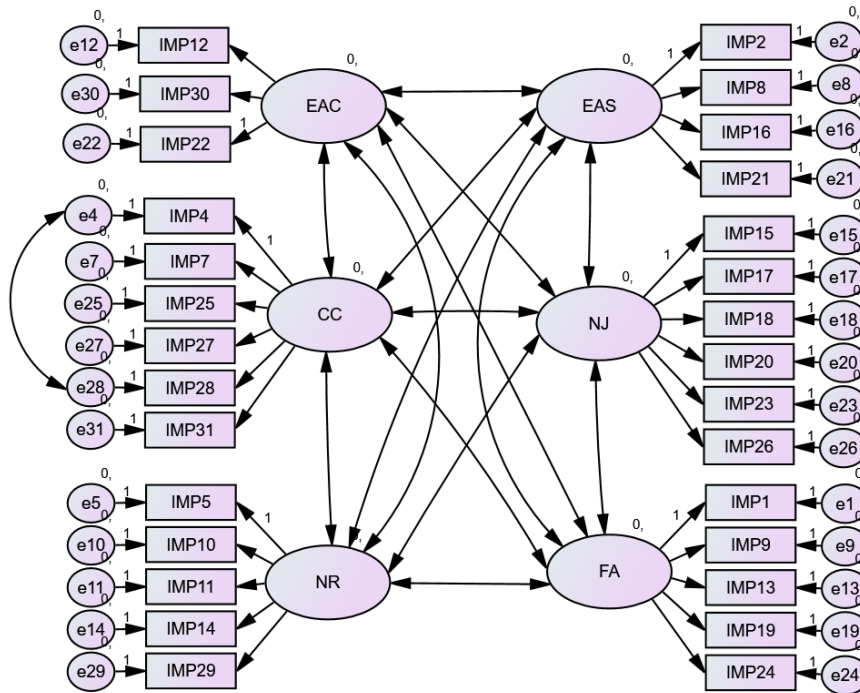
**Modification Indices (Infants - Default model)**

**Covariances: (Infants - Default model)**

	M.I.	Par Change
e22 <--> e31	6.403	-.042
e26 <--> e22	6.725	.095
e23 <--> FA	9.622	.061
e20 <--> NR	7.453	-.043
e20 <--> EAS	8.425	.045
e18 <--> EAS	13.400	.051
e18 <--> e20	6.556	.064
e17 <--> FA	7.429	-.048
e15 <--> EAS	7.848	-.046
e15 <--> EAC	7.656	-.064
e14 <--> e29	11.045	.059
e11 <--> NR	11.435	-.050
e11 <--> FA	9.094	.048
e10 <--> NJ	16.881	.158
e10 <--> EAC	6.613	.076
e10 <--> e14	6.490	-.080
e10 <--> e11	6.788	.093
e28 <--> EAC	11.840	.059
e28 <--> e22	14.342	.076
e27 <--> EAS	6.592	-.023

	M.I.	Par Change
e27 <--> e10	6.274	-.055
e25 <--> EAC	7.636	-.039
e25 <--> e31	8.886	.034
e25 <--> e14	11.732	.052
e7 <--> e31	11.260	-.048
e4 <--> NR	6.664	-.042
e4 <--> e31	12.497	-.064
e4 <--> e28	18.418	.095
e4 <--> e27	12.178	-.058
e4 <--> e7	16.642	.094
e21 <--> e20	6.973	.059
e21 <--> e18	7.713	.056
e21 <--> e14	12.925	-.068
e16 <--> e31	6.649	.034
e8 <--> e4	13.135	.112
e2 <--> e29	6.391	-.050
e2 <--> e21	6.473	.052
e24 <--> e17	6.643	-.048
e1 <--> e20	7.954	-.063

de Bruin et al. (2014) – 29-item model (Model I.4)



Standardized Regression Weights: (Infants - Default model)

	Estimate		Estimate
IMP1 <--- FA	.653	IMP10 <--- NR	.164
IMP9 <--- FA	.685	IMP11 <--- NR	.677
IMP13 <--- FA	.717	IMP14 <--- NR	.761
IMP19 <--- FA	.755	IMP29 <--- NR	.825
IMP24 <--- FA	.720	IMP15 <--- NJ	.754
IMP2 <--- EAS	.648	IMP17 <--- NJ	.757
IMP8 <--- EAS	.489	IMP18 <--- NJ	.632
IMP16 <--- EAS	.717	IMP20 <--- NJ	.679
IMP21 <--- EAS	.713	IMP23 <--- NJ	.755
IMP4 <--- CC	.397	IMP26 <--- NJ	.617
IMP7 <--- CC	.630	IMP22 <--- EAC	.694
IMP25 <--- CC	.664	IMP30 <--- EAC	.773
IMP27 <--- CC	.731	IMP12 <--- EAC	.622
IMP28 <--- CC	.685	IMP31 <--- CC	.769
IMP5 <--- NR	.674		

Model Fit Summary

CMIN

Model	NPAR	CMIN	DF	P	CMIN/DF
Default model	103	649.218	361	.000	1.798
Saturated model	464	.000	0		
Independence model	58	4058.027	406	.000	9.995



**Baseline Comparisons**

Model	NFI Delta1	RFI rho1	IFI Delta2	TLI rho2	CFI
Default model	.840	.820	.922	.911	.921
Saturated model	1.000		1.000		1.000
Independence model	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000

**RMSEA**

Model	RMSEA	LO 90	HI 90	PCLOSE
Default model	.050	.044	.056	.489
Independence model	.168	.163	.173	.000

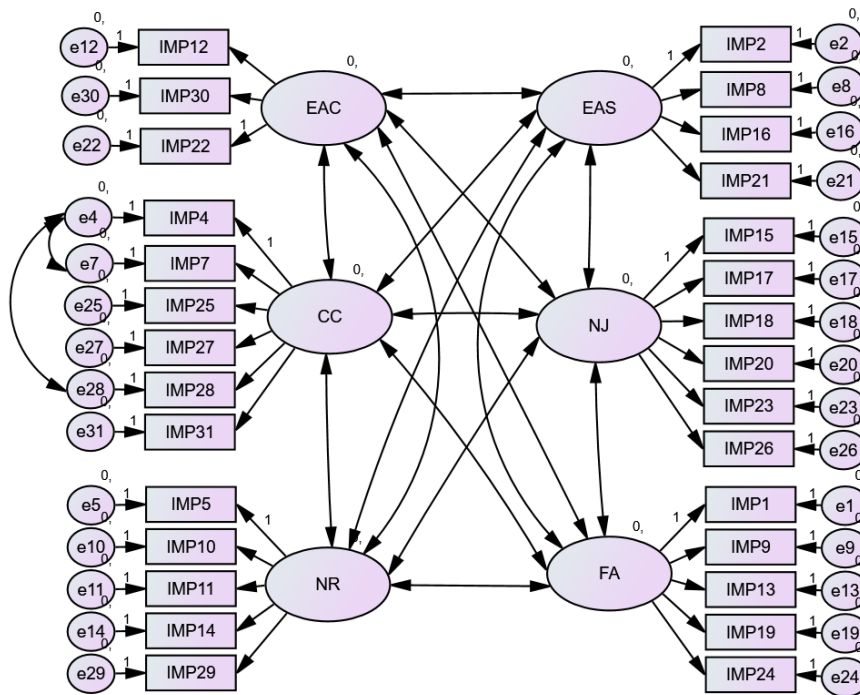
**Modification Indices (Infants - Default model)**

**Covariances: (Infants - Default model)**

	M.I.	Par Change
e22 <--> e31	6.136	-.040
e26 <--> e22	6.808	.096
e23 <--> FA	9.531	.061
e20 <--> NR	7.551	-.044
e20 <--> EAS	8.394	.045
e18 <--> EAS	13.809	.052
e18 <--> e20	6.557	.064
e17 <--> FA	7.487	-.049
e15 <--> EAS	7.923	-.046
e15 <--> EAC	7.743	-.064
e14 <--> e29	10.701	.058
e11 <--> NR	11.328	-.049
e11 <--> FA	9.091	.048
e10 <--> NJ	16.932	.158
e10 <--> EAC	6.743	.076
e10 <--> e14	6.425	-.080
e10 <--> e11	6.871	.093
e28 <--> EAC	11.551	.057

	M.I.	Par Change
e28 <--> e22	12.774	.070
e27 <--> EAS	7.165	-.024
e25 <--> EAC	7.406	-.038
e25 <--> e14	10.661	.049
e7 <--> e31	11.416	-.048
e4 <--> EAS	6.181	.039
e4 <--> FA	6.236	.042
e4 <--> e27	8.821	-.048
e4 <--> e7	17.639	.095
e21 <--> e20	6.941	.059
e21 <--> e18	7.841	.057
e21 <--> e14	12.971	-.069
e8 <--> e4	10.412	.098
e2 <--> e29	6.494	-.050
e2 <--> e21	6.357	.051
e24 <--> e17	6.663	-.048
e1 <--> e20	7.953	-.063

de Bruin et al. (2014) – 29-item model (Model I.5)



Standardized Regression Weights: (Infants - Default model)

	Estimate		Estimate
IMP1 <--- FA	.654	IMP10 <--- NR	.163
IMP9 <--- FA	.685	IMP11 <--- NR	.677
IMP13 <--- FA	.717	IMP14 <--- NR	.761
IMP19 <--- FA	.755	IMP29 <--- NR	.825
IMP24 <--- FA	.719	IMP15 <--- NJ	.754
IMP2 <--- EAS	.648	IMP17 <--- NJ	.757
IMP8 <--- EAS	.487	IMP18 <--- NJ	.632
IMP16 <--- EAS	.717	IMP20 <--- NJ	.679
IMP21 <--- EAS	.713	IMP23 <--- NJ	.755
IMP4 <--- CC	.371	IMP26 <--- NJ	.617
IMP7 <--- CC	.622	IMP22 <--- EAC	.693
IMP25 <--- CC	.666	IMP30 <--- EAC	.774
IMP27 <--- CC	.738	IMP12 <--- EAC	.621
IMP28 <--- CC	.683	IMP31 <--- CC	.774
IMP5 <--- NR	.674		

Model Fit Summary

CMIN

Model	NPAR	CMIN	DF	P	CMIN/DF
Default model	104	630.757	360	.000	1.752
Saturated model	464	.000	0		
Independence model	58	4058.027	406	.000	9.995

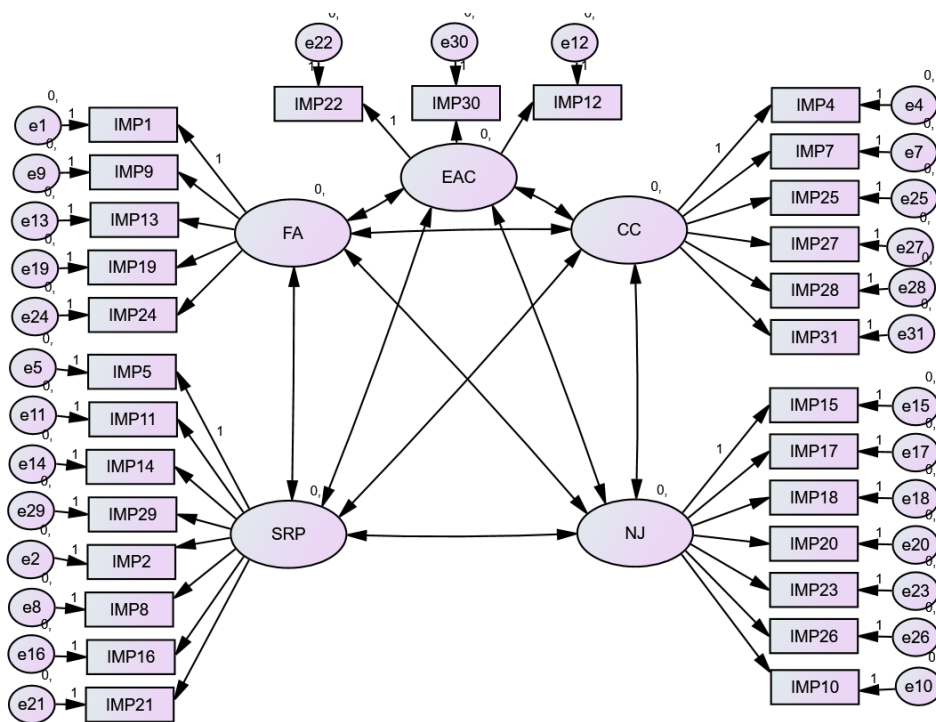
**Baseline Comparisons**

Model	NFI Delta1	RFI rho1	IFI Delta2	TLI rho2	CFI
Default model	.845	.825	.927	.916	.926
Saturated model	1.000		1.000		1.000
Independence model	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000

**RMSEA**

Model	RMSEA	LO 90	HI 90	PCLOSE
Default model	.049	.042	.055	.641
Independence model	.168	.163	.173	.000

**Moreira and Canavarro (2017) – 29-item model (Model I.6)**



**Standardized Regression Weights: (Infants - Default model)**

	Estimate		Estimate
IMP1 <--- FA	.654	IMP17 <--- NJ	.752
IMP9 <--- FA	.685	IMP18 <--- NJ	.635
IMP13 <--- FA	.715	IMP20 <--- NJ	.681
IMP19 <--- FA	.755	IMP23 <--- NJ	.755
IMP24 <--- FA	.721	IMP26 <--- NJ	.622
IMP4 <--- CC	.435	IMP22 <--- EAC	.694
IMP7 <--- CC	.639	IMP30 <--- EAC	.771
IMP25 <--- CC	.658	IMP31 <--- CC	.753
IMP27 <--- CC	.729	IMP10 <--- NJ	.280
IMP28 <--- CC	.705	IMP12 <--- EAC	.624
IMP5 <--- SRP	.655	IMP2 <--- SRP	.587
IMP11 <--- SRP	.681	IMP8 <--- SRP	.444
IMP14 <--- SRP	.715	IMP16 <--- SRP	.690
IMP29 <--- SRP	.781	IMP21 <--- SRP	.687
IMP15 <--- NJ	.753		

**Model Fit Summary**

**CMIN**

Model	NPAR	CMIN	DF	P	CMIN/DF
Default model	97	705.055	367	.000	1.921
Saturated model	464	.000	0		
Independence model	58	4058.027	406	.000	9.995

**Baseline Comparisons**

Model	NFI Delta1	RFI rho1	IFI Delta2	TLI rho2	CFI
Default model	.826	.808	.908	.898	.907
Saturated model	1.000		1.000		1.000
Independence model	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000

**RMSEA**

Model	RMSEA	LO 90	HI 90	PCLOSE
Default model	.054	.048	.060	.150
Independence model	.168	.163	.173	.000

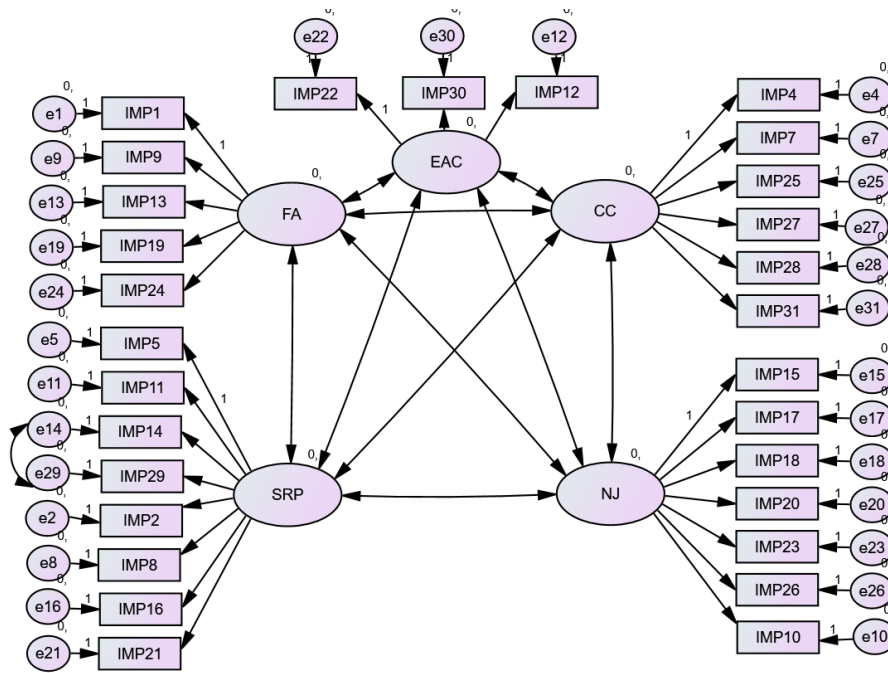
**Modification Indices (Infants - Default model)**

**Covariances: (Infants - Default model)**

	M.I.	Par Change
e8 <--> SRP	7.419	-.046
e8 <--> CC	9.792	.037
e2 <--> e21	16.620	.087
e10 <--> EAC	7.666	.080
e31 <--> SRP	9.408	.029
e31 <--> e16	7.070	.035
e22 <--> e31	6.181	-.041
e26 <--> e22	6.495	.093
e23 <--> FA	9.378	.060
e23 <--> e21	6.160	-.066
e20 <--> e21	9.790	.071
e18 <--> e21	11.611	.069
e18 <--> e16	6.959	.049
e18 <--> e20	6.054	.061
e17 <--> FA	7.594	-.049
e17 <--> e16	6.847	-.057
e15 <--> EAC	9.638	-.071
e15 <--> e2	6.530	-.070
e15 <--> e17	6.086	.075
e29 <--> e8	7.042	-.066
e29 <--> e2	15.263	-.082
e14 <--> e21	19.864	-.088

	M.I.	Par Change
e14 <--> e2	8.470	-.067
e14 <--> e29	33.814	.113
e11 <--> FA	9.166	.048
e28 <--> SRP	7.012	-.031
e28 <--> EAC	12.194	.060
e28 <--> e8	7.573	.067
e28 <--> e22	14.664	.077
e25 <--> EAC	8.276	-.041
e25 <--> e31	8.175	.032
e25 <--> e14	10.256	.051
e25 <--> e28	6.280	-.035
e7 <--> e31	10.016	-.045
e4 <--> e8	15.270	.124
e4 <--> e31	10.944	-.060
e4 <--> e14	6.922	-.066
e4 <--> e28	20.032	.100
e4 <--> e27	11.706	-.057
e4 <--> e7	18.137	.099
e24 <--> CC	6.063	.016
e24 <--> e17	6.120	-.046
e24 <--> e5	6.730	-.042
e1 <--> e20	8.530	-.065

Moreira and Canavarro (2017) – 29-item model (Model I.7)



Standardized Regression Weights: (Infants - Default model)

	Estimate		Estimate
IMP1 <--- FA	.654	IMP17 <--- NJ	.752
IMP9 <--- FA	.685	IMP18 <--- NJ	.636
IMP13 <--- FA	.715	IMP20 <--- NJ	.683
IMP19 <--- FA	.754	IMP23 <--- NJ	.754
IMP24 <--- FA	.721	IMP26 <--- NJ	.622
IMP4 <--- CC	.440	IMP22 <--- EAC	.693
IMP7 <--- CC	.643	IMP30 <--- EAC	.771
IMP25 <--- CC	.654	IMP31 <--- CC	.751
IMP27 <--- CC	.726	IMP10 <--- NJ	.281
IMP28 <--- CC	.707	IMP12 <--- EAC	.625
IMP5 <--- SRP	.643	IMP2 <--- SRP	.612
IMP11 <--- SRP	.687	IMP8 <--- SRP	.463
IMP14 <--- SRP	.660	IMP16 <--- SRP	.693
IMP29 <--- SRP	.737	IMP21 <--- SRP	.705
IMP15 <--- NJ	.751		

Model Fit Summary

CMIN

Model	NPAR	CMIN	DF	P	CMIN/DF
Default model	98	666.453	366	.000	1.821
Saturated model	464	.000	0		
Independence model	58	4058.027	406	.000	9.995

Baseline Comparisons

Model	NFI Delta1	RFI rho1	IFI Delta2	TLI rho2	CFI
Default model	.836	.818	.919	.909	.918
Saturated model	1.000		1.000		1.000
Independence model	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000

**RMSEA**

Model	RMSEA	LO 90	HI 90	PCLOSE
Default model	.051	.045	.057	.415
Independence model	.168	.163	.173	.000

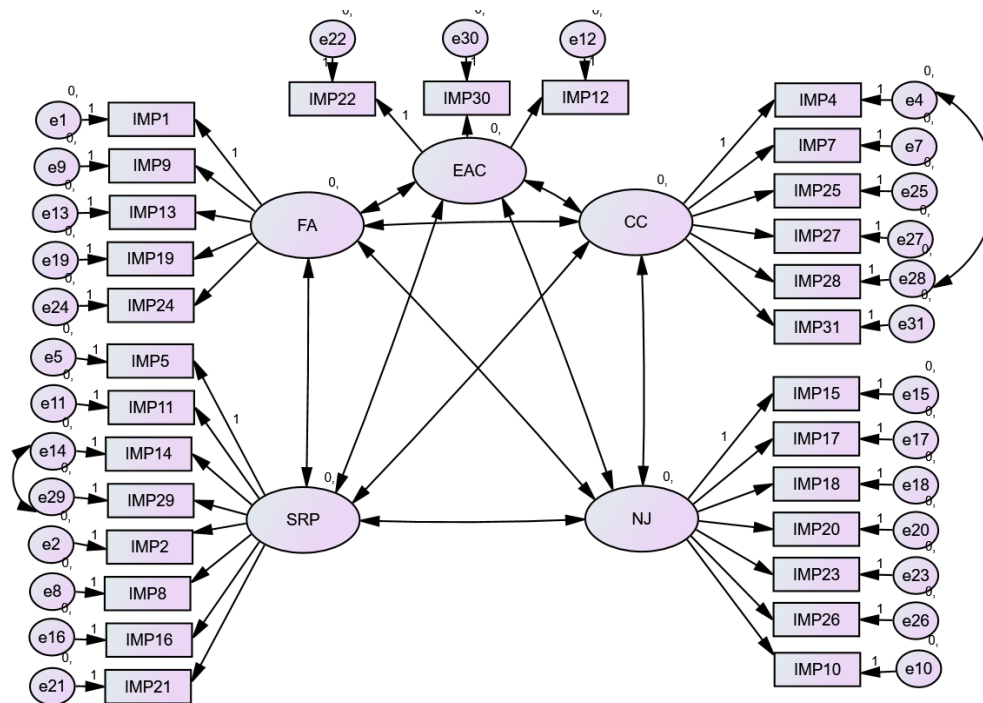
**Modification Indices (Infants - Default model)**

**Covariances: (Infants - Default model)**

	M.I.	Par Change
e2 <--> e21	11.413	.070
e18 <--> e21	10.272	.064
e14 <--> e21	14.801	-.072
e28 <--> EAC	12.138	.059
e28 <--> e22	14.654	.077
e7 <--> e31	10.452	-.046

	M.I.	Par Change
e4 <--> e8	14.199	.118
e4 <--> e31	11.571	-.062
e4 <--> e28	19.121	.097
e4 <--> e27	12.198	-.058
e4 <--> e7	17.328	.096

**Moreira and Canavarro (2017) – 29-item model (Model I.8)**



**Standardized Regression Weights: (Infants - Default model)**

	Estimate
IMP1 <--- FA	.655
IMP9 <--- FA	.685
IMP13 <--- FA	.715
IMP19 <--- FA	.754
IMP24 <--- FA	.721
IMP4 <--- CC	.393
IMP7 <--- CC	.627
IMP25 <--- CC	.664
IMP27 <--- CC	.736
IMP28 <--- CC	.685
IMP5 <--- SRP	.643
IMP11 <--- SRP	.688

	Estimate
IMP14 <--- SRP	.662
IMP29 <--- SRP	.739
IMP15 <--- NJ	.752
IMP17 <--- NJ	.752
IMP18 <--- NJ	.636
IMP20 <--- NJ	.683
IMP23 <--- NJ	.754
IMP26 <--- NJ	.622
IMP22 <--- EAC	.691
IMP30 <--- EAC	.774
IMP31 <--- CC	.768
IMP10 <--- NJ	.281

	Estimate
IMP12 <--- EAC	.624
IMP2 <--- SRP	.611
IMP8 <--- SRP	.460

	Estimate
IMP16 <--- SRP	.694
IMP21 <--- SRP	.703

### Model Fit Summary

#### CMIN

Model	NPAR	CMIN	DF	P	CMIN/DF
Default model	99	645.714	365	.000	1.769
Saturated model	464	.000	0		
Independence model	58	4058.027	406	.000	9.995

### Baseline Comparisons

Model	NFI	RFI	IFI	TLI	CFI
	Delta1	rho1	Delta2	rho2	
Default model	.841	.823	.924	.915	.923
Saturated model	1.000		1.000		1.000
Independence model	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000

### RMSEA

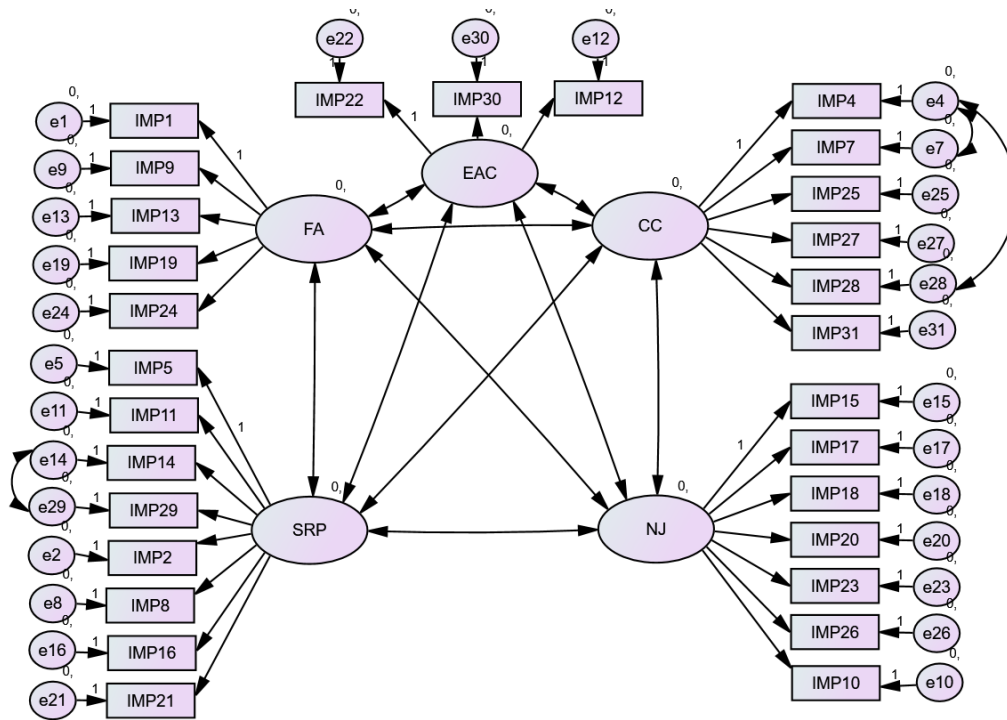
Model	RMSEA	LO 90	HI 90	PCLOSE
Default model	.049	.043	.055	.587
Independence model	.168	.163	.173	.000

### Modification Indices (Infants - Default model)

#### Covariances: (Infants - Default model)

	M.I.	Par Change
e2 <--> e21	11.675	.071
e18 <--> e21	10.413	.065
e14 <--> e21	14.965	-.072
e28 <--> EAC	11.569	.056
e28 <--> e22	12.908	.071
e7 <--> e31	10.513	-.046
e4 <--> e8	10.977	.101
e4 <--> e7	18.138	.097

Moreira and Canavarro (2017) – 29-item model (Model I.9)



Standardized Regression Weights: (Infants - Default model)

	Estimate		Estimate
IMP1 <--- FA	.655	IMP17 <--- NJ	.752
IMP9 <--- FA	.684	IMP18 <--- NJ	.636
IMP13 <--- FA	.715	IMP20 <--- NJ	.683
IMP19 <--- FA	.754	IMP23 <--- NJ	.754
IMP24 <--- FA	.721	IMP26 <--- NJ	.622
IMP4 <--- CC	.367	IMP22 <--- EAC	.691
IMP7 <--- CC	.620	IMP30 <--- EAC	.775
IMP25 <--- CC	.665	IMP31 <--- CC	.772
IMP27 <--- CC	.742	IMP10 <--- NJ	.281
IMP28 <--- CC	.684	IMP12 <--- EAC	.623
IMP5 <--- SRP	.643	IMP2 <--- SRP	.611
IMP11 <--- SRP	.688	IMP8 <--- SRP	.459
IMP14 <--- SRP	.664	IMP16 <--- SRP	.694
IMP29 <--- SRP	.740	IMP21 <--- SRP	.702
IMP15 <--- NJ	.752		

Model Fit Summary

CMIN

Model	NPAR	CMIN	DF	P	CMIN/DF
Default model	100	626.750	364	.000	1.722
Saturated model	464	.000	0		
Independence model	58	4058.027	406	.000	9.995



**Baseline Comparisons**

Model	NFI Delta1	RFI rho1	IFI Delta2	TLI rho2	CFI
Default model	.846	.828	.929	.920	.928
Saturated model	1.000		1.000		1.000
Independence model	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000

**RMSEA**

Model	RMSEA	LO 90	HI 90	PCLOSE
Default model	.048	.041	.054	.733
Independence model	.168	.163	.173	.000

## IMP and Parent and Child age:

### Correlations

Infant or child		IMP Total score (without items 3 or 6)	
infant aged 0-2	Parent age	Pearson Correlation	.096
		Sig. (2-tailed)	.087
		N	316
	Child age	Pearson Correlation	.163**
		Sig. (2-tailed)	.003
		N	320
child aged 3-18	Parent age	Pearson Correlation	.133**
		Sig. (2-tailed)	.008
		N	396
	Child age	Pearson Correlation	.058
		Sig. (2-tailed)	.251
		N	396

\*\* . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

## IMP and Parent previous mental health diagnosis:

### Report

IMP Total score (without items 3 or 6)

Infant or child	Mental health	Mean	N	Std. Deviation
infant aged 0-2	Yes	104.850	147	12.430
	No	107.670	173	12.444
	Total	106.375	320	12.498
child aged 3-18	Yes	98.966	148	12.745
	No	103.891	248	12.750
	Total	102.050	396	12.953

### Independent Samples Test (Infants)

		Levene's Test for Equality of Variances		t-test for Equality of Means						
	Equal variances assumed	F	Sig.	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	Std. Error Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
									Lower	Upper
IMP Total score (without items 3 or 6)		.700	.403	-2.021	318	.044	-2.820	1.395	-5.565	-.075

### Independent Samples Test (Children)

		Levene's Test for Equality of Variances		t-test for Equality of Means						
	Equal variances assumed	F	Sig.	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	Std. Error Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
									Lower	Upper
IMP Total score (without items 3 or 6)		.003	.960	-3.719	394	.000	-4.924	1.324	-7.528	-2.321

**IMP and History of formal mindfulness practice (parents of children):**

**Group Statistics**

	Mindfulness categorised	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
IMP Total score (without items 3 or 6)	No	252	101.8135	13.08145	.82405
	Yes	144	102.4653	12.76244	1.06354

**Independent Samples Test**

		Levene's Test for Equality of Variances		t-test for Equality of Means						
		F	Sig.	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	Std. Error Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
									Lower	Upper
IMP Total score (without items 3 or 6)	Equal variances assumed	.006	.940	-.481	394	.631	-.651	1.354	-3.314	2.011

**IMP and Length of mindfulness practice (parents of children):**

**Group Statistics**

	Length practice categorised	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
IMP Total score (without items 3 or 6)	Less than 1 yr	64	100.8594	12.66023	1.58253
	1yr or more	75	103.9600	12.86147	1.48511

**Independent Samples Test**

		Levene's Test for Equality of Variances		t-test for Equality of Means						
		F	Sig.	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	Std. Error Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
									Lower	Upper
IMP Total score (without items 3 or 6)	Equal variances assumed	.128	.721	-1.427	137	.156	-3.100	2.172	-7.397	1.196

**IMP and Frequency of practice (parents of children):**

**Group Statistics**

	Freq practice categorised	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
IMP Total score (without items 3 or 6)	Practice monthly or more often	89	104.9213	13.02988	1.38116
	Practice less than monthly or not at all	50	98.2800	11.35519	1.60587

**Independent Samples Test**

		Levene's Test for Equality of Variances		t-test for Equality of Means						
		F	Sig.	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	Std. Error Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
									Lower	Upper
IMP Total score (without items 3 or 6)	Equal variances assumed	2.250	.136	3.017	137	.003	6.641	2.201	2.287	10.994

**IMP and History of formal mindfulness practice (parents of infants):**  
**Group Statistics**

	Mindfulness_categorised	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
IMP Total score (without items 3 or 6)	No	178	104.8539	12.59858	.94430
	Yes	142	108.2817	12.14824	1.01946

**Independent Samples Test**

		Levene's Test for Equality of Variances		t-test for Equality of Means						
		F	Sig.	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	Std. Error Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
									Lower	Upper
IMP Total score (without items 3 or 6)	Equal variances assumed	.013	.910	-2.457	318	.015	-3.427	1.395	-6.172	-.682

**IMP and Length of mindfulness practice (parents of infants):**  
**Group Statistics**

	Length_practice_categorised	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
IMP Total score (without items 3 or 6)	Less than 1 yr	68	105.7059	11.35986	1.37759
	1yr or more	71	111.0423	12.36636	1.46762

**Independent Samples Test**

		Levene's Test for Equality of Variances		t-test for Equality of Means						
		F	Sig.	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	Std. Error Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
									Lower	Upper
IMP Total score (without items 3 or 6)	Equal variances assumed	.198	.657	-2.646	137	.009	-5.336	2.016	-9.324	-1.348

### IMP and Frequency of mindfulness practice (parents of infants):

#### Group Statistics

	Freq_practice_categorised	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
IMP Total score (without items 3 or 6)	Practice monthly or more often	80	109.3000	12.22924	1.36727
	Practice less than monthly or not at all	59	107.2542	12.02238	1.56518

#### Independent Samples Test

		Levene's Test for Equality of Variances		t-test for Equality of Means					95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
	Equal variances assumed	F	Sig.	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	Std. Error Difference	Lower	Upper
IMP Total score (without items 3 or 6)		.114	.736	.982	137	.328	2.045	2.083	-2.074	6.166

# APPENDIX C1

## Demographics Questionnaire

1. Do you consider yourself to be the primary caregiver for the children in your family?
  - a. Yes
  - b. No
  - c. I share the caregiving role equally with another family member
  
2. What is your age (in years): *[select from pull down menu]*
  
3. In which country is your **primary** residence? *[select from pull-down menu]*
  
4. Please choose the cultural background that you **most closely** identify with:
  - a. Australian
  - b. Australian Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander or South Sea Islander
  - c. New Zealander
  - d. British or Irish
  - e. Western European
  - f. Northern European
  - g. Southern European
  - h. Eastern European
  - i. South-East Asian
  - j. North-East Asian
  - k. Southern or Central Asian
  - l. Middle Eastern
  - m. North African
  - n. Sub-Saharan African
  - o. North American
  - p. South or Central American
  - q. Other *(please specify)*
  
5. What is the highest level of education you have **completed**?
  - a. Post-graduate degree (Master's degree or doctoral degree)
  - b. Bachelor's degree (including an Honours-level degree)
  - c. Associate's degree
  - d. Vocational training
  - e. High school or secondary school (Year 12 or equivalent) or less
  - f. Other
  
6. How many children are in your family:
  - a. 1
  - b. 2
  - c. 3
  - d. 4
  - e. 5 or more
  
7. Have you ever been diagnosed with a mental health condition?
  - a. Yes
  - b. No

8. Have you ever engaged in the formal practice of mindfulness (or other form of meditation or contemplative practice)?
- No formal practice
  - Mindfulness
  - Yoga
  - Tai chi
  - Other (*please specify*)
9. [*Display this question only if "Mindfulness" is selected in Q8*] For approximately how long have you engaged in the formal practice of mindfulness?
- Less than 3 months
  - 3 to 6 months
  - 6 months to 1 year
  - 1 to 5 years
  - 5 to 10 years
  - More than 10 years
10. [*Display this question only if "Mindfulness" is selected in Q8*] How frequently are you currently engaging in formal practice of mindfulness?
- Once or more a day
  - 3 or more times a week
  - 1 to 2 times a week
  - Once a fortnight
  - Once a month
  - Less than once a month
  - Not currently practicing

For the following questions about parenting practices, please choose one child aged 0-20 years in your family, and answer the questions about your parenting of that child:

11. What is your relationship to the child about whom you will answer the parenting questions?
- Biological mother
  - Biological father
  - Adoptive mother
  - Adoptive father
  - Stepmother
  - Stepfather
  - Foster mother
  - Foster father
  - Grandmother
  - Grandfather
  - Other (*please specify*)
12. What is the gender of the child about whom you will answer the parenting questions?
- Male
  - Female
  - Other (*please specify*)
13. What is the age of the child about whom you will answer the parenting questions? [*select from pull-down menu*]

## Interpersonal Mindfulness in Parenting Scale

The following statements describe different ways that parents interact with their children on a daily basis. Please select whether you think the statement is “Never True”, “Rarely True”, “Sometimes True”, “Often True” or “Always True” for you.

Remember there are no right or wrong answers. Please answer according to what **really** reflects your experience rather than what you think your experience *should* be. Please treat each statement separately from every other statement.

	Never True	Rarely True	Sometimes True	Often True	Always True
1. I find myself listening to my child with one ear because I am busy doing or thinking about something else at the same time.	1	2	3	4	5
2. When I'm upset with my child, I notice how I am feeling before I take action.	1	2	3	4	5
3. I notice how changes in my child's mood affect my mood.	1	2	3	4	5
4. I listen carefully to my child's ideas, even when I disagree with them.	1	2	3	4	5
5. I often react too quickly to what my child says or does.	1	2	3	4	5
6. I am aware of how my moods affect the way I treat my child.	1	2	3	4	5
7. Even when it makes me uncomfortable, I allow my child to express his/her feelings.	1	2	3	4	5
8. When I am upset with my child, I calmly tell him/her how I am feeling.	1	2	3	4	5
9. I rush through activities with my child without really being attentive to him/her.	1	2	3	4	5
10. I have difficulty accepting my child's growing independence.	1	2	3	4	5
11. How I am feeling tends to affect my parenting decisions, but I do not realise it until later.	1	2	3	4	5
12. It is hard for me to tell what my child is feeling.	1	2	3	4	5
13. When I am doing things with my child, my mind wanders off and I am easily distracted.	1	2	3	4	5
14. When my child misbehaves, it makes me so upset I say or do things I later regret.	1	2	3	4	5
15. I tend to be hard on myself when I make mistakes as a parent.	1	2	3	4	5



16. When my child does something that upsets me, I try to keep my emotions in balance.	1	2	3	4	5
17. When times are really difficult with my child, I tend to blame myself.	1	2	3	4	5
18. When things I try to do as a parent do not work out, I can accept them and move on.	1	2	3	4	5
19. I am often so busy thinking about other things that I realise I am not really listening to my child.	1	2	3	4	5
20. When I do something as a parent that I regret, I try to give myself a break.	1	2	3	4	5
21. In difficult situations with my child, I pause without immediately reacting.	1	2	3	4	5
22. It is easy for me to tell when my child is worried about something.	1	2	3	4	5
23. I tend to criticize myself for not being the kind of parent I want to be.	1	2	3	4	5
24. I pay close attention to my child when we are spending time together.	1	2	3	4	5
25. I am kind to my child when he/she is upset.	1	2	3	4	5
26. When I am having a hard time with parenting, I feel like other parents must have an easier time of it.	1	2	3	4	5
27. When my child is going through a difficult time, I try to give him/her the nurturing and caring he/she needs.	1	2	3	4	5
28. I try to understand my child's point of view, even when his/her opinions do not makes sense to me.	1	2	3	4	5
29. When something my child does upsets me, I get carried away with my feelings.	1	2	3	4	5
30. I can tell what my child is feeling even if he/she does not say anything.	1	2	3	4	5
31. I try to be understanding and patient with my child when he/she is having a hard time.	1	2	3	4	5

Duncan, L. G. (2007). Assessment of mindful parenting among parents of early adolescents: Development and validation of the Interpersonal Mindfulness in Parenting scale [doctoral dissertation]. Pennsylvania State University.

Duncan, L. G., Coatsworth, J., & Greenberg, M. T. (2009). A model of mindful parenting: Implications for parent-child relationships and prevention research. *Clinical Child and Family Psychology Review*, 12, 255-270. doi:10.1007/s10567-009-0046-3

### Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (2-4 years)

**In relation to the child you are answering about**, for each item, please mark the box for Not True, Somewhat True or Certainly True. It would help us if you answered all items as best you can even if you are not absolutely certain. Please give your answers on the basis of your child's behaviour over the last six months.

	Not true	Somewhat true	Certainly true
Considerate of other people's feelings	0	1	2
Restless, overactive, cannot stay still for long	0	1	2
Often complains of headaches, stomach-aches or sickness	0	1	2
Shares readily with other children, for example toys, treats, pencils	0	1	2
Often loses temper	0	1	2
Rather solitary, prefers to play alone	0	1	2
Generally well behaved, usually does what adults request	2	1	0
Many worries or often seems worried	0	1	2
Helpful if someone is hurt, upset or feeling ill	0	1	2
Constantly fidgeting or squirming	0	1	2
Has at least one good friend	2	1	0
Often fights with other children or bullies them	0	1	2
Often unhappy, depressed or tearful	0	1	2
Generally liked by other children	2	1	0
Easily distracted, concentration wanders	0	1	2
Nervous or clingy in new situations, easily loses confidence	0	1	2
Kind to younger children	0	1	2
Often argumentative with adults	0	1	2
Picked on or bullied by other children	0	1	2
Often volunteers to help others (parents, teachers, other children)	0	1	2
Can stop and think things out before acting	2	1	0
Can be spiteful to others	0	1	2
Gets along better with adults than with other children	0	1	2
Many fears, easily scared	0	1	2
Good attention span, sees chores or homework through to the end	2	1	0

Goodman, R. (1997). The Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire: a research note. *Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry*, 38, 581–586.

### Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (5-10 years)

**In relation to the child you are answering about**, for each item, please mark the box for Not True, Somewhat True or Certainly True. It would help us if you answered all items as best you can even if you are not absolutely certain. Please give your answers on the basis of your child's behaviour over the last six months.

	Not true	Somewhat true	Certainly true
Considerate of other people's feelings	0	1	2
Restless, overactive, cannot stay still for long	0	1	2
Often complains of headaches, stomach-aches or sickness	0	1	2
Shares readily with other children, for example toys, treats, pencils	0	1	2
Often loses temper	0	1	2
Rather solitary, prefers to play alone	0	1	2
Generally well behaved, usually does what adults request	2	1	0
Many worries or often seems worried	0	1	2
Helpful if someone is hurt, upset or feeling ill	0	1	2
Constantly fidgeting or squirming	0	1	2
Has at least one good friend	2	1	0
Often fights with other children or bullies them	0	1	2
Often unhappy, depressed or tearful	0	1	2
Generally liked by other children	2	1	0
Easily distracted, concentration wanders	0	1	2
Nervous or clingy in new situations, easily loses confidence	0	1	2
Kind to younger children	0	1	2
Often lies or cheats	0	1	2
Picked on or bullied by other children	0	1	2
Often volunteers to help others (parents, teachers, other children)	0	1	2
Thinks things out before acting	2	1	0
Steals from home, school or elsewhere	0	1	2
Gets along better with adults than with other children	0	1	2
Many fears, easily scared	0	1	2
Good attention span, sees work through to the end	2	1	0

Goodman, R. (1997). The Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire: a research note. *Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry*, 38, 581–586.

### Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (11-17 years)

**In relation to the child you are answering about**, for each item, please mark the box for Not True, Somewhat True or Certainly True. It would help us if you answered all items as best you can even if you are not absolutely certain. Please give your answers on the basis of your child's behaviour over the last six months.

	Not true	Somewhat true	Certainly true
Considerate of other people's feelings	0	1	2
Restless, overactive, cannot stay still for long	0	1	2
Often complains of headaches, stomach-aches or sickness	0	1	2
Shares readily with other youth, for example CDs, games, food	0	1	2
Often loses temper	0	1	2
Would rather be alone than with other young people	0	1	2
Generally well behaved, usually does what adults request	2	1	0
Many worries or often seems worried	0	1	2
Helpful if someone is hurt, upset or feeling ill	0	1	2
Constantly fidgeting or squirming	0	1	2
Has at least one good friend	2	1	0
Often fights with other young people or bullies them	0	1	2
Often unhappy, depressed or tearful	0	1	2
Generally liked by other young people	2	1	0
Easily distracted, concentration wanders	0	1	2
Nervous in new situations, easily loses confidence	0	1	2
Kind to younger children	0	1	2
Often lies or cheats	0	1	2
Picked on or bullied by other young people	0	1	2
Often volunteers to help others (parents, teachers, other children)	0	1	2
Thinks things out before acting	2	1	0
Steals from home, school or elsewhere	0	1	2
Gets along better with adults than with other young people	0	1	2
Many fears, easily scared	0	1	2
Good attention span, sees chores or homework through to the end	2	1	0

Goodman, R. (1997). The Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire: a research note. *Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry*, 38, 581–586.

# DASS<sub>21</sub>

Name:

Date:

Please read each statement and circle a number 0, 1, 2 or 3 which indicates how much the statement applied to you *over the past week*. There are no right or wrong answers. Do not spend too much time on any statement.

*The rating scale is as follows:*

- 0 Did not apply to me at all
- 1 Applied to me to some degree, or some of the time
- 2 Applied to me to a considerable degree, or a good part of time
- 3 Applied to me very much, or most of the time

1	I found it hard to wind down	0	1	2	3
2	I was aware of dryness of my mouth	0	1	2	3
3	I couldn't seem to experience any positive feeling at all	0	1	2	3
4	I experienced breathing difficulty (eg, excessively rapid breathing, breathlessness in the absence of physical exertion)	0	1	2	3
5	I found it difficult to work up the initiative to do things	0	1	2	3
6	I tended to over-react to situations	0	1	2	3
7	I experienced trembling (eg, in the hands)	0	1	2	3
8	I felt that I was using a lot of nervous energy	0	1	2	3
9	I was worried about situations in which I might panic and make a fool of myself	0	1	2	3
10	I felt that I had nothing to look forward to	0	1	2	3
11	I found myself getting agitated	0	1	2	3
12	I found it difficult to relax	0	1	2	3
13	I felt down-hearted and blue	0	1	2	3
14	I was intolerant of anything that kept me from getting on with what I was doing	0	1	2	3
15	I felt I was close to panic	0	1	2	3
16	I was unable to become enthusiastic about anything	0	1	2	3
17	I felt I wasn't worth much as a person	0	1	2	3
18	I felt that I was rather touchy	0	1	2	3
19	I was aware of the action of my heart in the absence of physical exertion (eg, sense of heart rate increase, heart missing a beat)	0	1	2	3
20	I felt scared without any good reason	0	1	2	3
21	I felt that life was meaningless	0	1	2	3

Lovibond, P. F., & Lovibond, S. H. (1995). The structure of negative emotional states: Comparison of the Depression Anxiety Stress Scales (DASS) with the Beck Depression and Anxiety Inventories. *Behaviour Research and Therapy*, 33(3), 335–343. doi: 10.1016/0005-7967(94)00075-U

## Parental Acceptance and Action Questionnaire

Thinking about the child you are answering about, please rate the degree to which the following statements are true about you.

1 = Never true	2 = Almost never true	3 = Occasionally true	4 = Sometimes true	5 = Often true	6 = Almost always true	7 = Always true
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### Inaction

1. I am able to take action about my child's fears, worries, and feelings even if I am uncertain what the right thing is to do.
2. When I feel depressed or anxious, I am unable to help my child manage their fears, worries, or feelings.
3. I try to suppress thoughts and feelings about my child that I don't like, by just not thinking about them.
4. In order for my child to do something important, I have to have all my doubts about it worked out.
5. I'm not afraid of my child's feelings.
6. Despite my doubts, I feel as though I can set a plan for managing my child's feelings.
7. If I get frustrated with my child, then I can still help him or her.
8. I often catch myself daydreaming about things I've done with my child and what I would do differently next time.
9. When I compare myself to other parents, it seems that most of them are handling their lives better than I do.

### Unwillingness

10. It's okay for my child to feel depressed or anxious.
11. I rarely worry about getting my child's anxieties, worries, and feelings under control.
12. I try hard to avoid having my child feel depressed or anxious.
13. It is bad if my child feels anxious.
14. If I could magically remove all the painful experiences my child has had in his or her life, I would do so.
15. Worries can get in the way of my child's success.

**Cognitive Emotion Regulation Questionnaire  
CERQ**

Everyone gets confronted with negative or unpleasant experiences and everyone responds to them in his or her own way. By the following questions, you are asked to indicate **what you generally think, when you experience negative or unpleasant events**. Please read the sentences below and indicate how often you have the following thoughts by selecting the most suitable answer.

Scale name	Items
Self-blame	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-I feel that I am the one to blame for it</li> <li>-I feel that I am the one who is responsible for what has happened</li> <li>-I think about the mistakes I have made in this matter</li> <li>-I think that basically the cause must lie within myself</li> </ul>
Acceptance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-I think that I have to accept that this has happened</li> <li>-I think that I have to accept the situation</li> <li>-I think that I cannot change anything about it</li> <li>-I think that I must learn to live with it</li> </ul>
Focus on thought/ rumination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-I often think about how I feel about what I have experienced</li> <li>-I am preoccupied with what I think and feel about what I have experienced</li> <li>-I want to understand why I feel the way I do about what I have experienced</li> <li>-I dwell upon the feelings the situation has evoked in me</li> </ul>
Positive refocusing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-I think of nicer things than what I have experienced</li> <li>-I think of pleasant things that have nothing to do with it</li> <li>-I think of something nice instead of what has happened</li> <li>-I think about pleasant experiences</li> </ul>
Refocus on planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-I think of what I can do best</li> <li>-I think about how I can best cope with the situation</li> <li>-I think about how to change the situation</li> <li>-I think about a plan of what I can do best</li> </ul>
Positive reappraisal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-I think I can learn something from the situation</li> <li>-I think that I can become a stronger person as a result of what has happened</li> <li>-I think that the situation also has its positive sides</li> <li>-I look for the positive sides to the matter</li> </ul>
Putting into perspective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-I think that it all could have been much worse</li> <li>-I think that other people go through much worse experiences</li> <li>-I think that it hasn't been too bad compared to other things</li> <li>-I tell myself that there are worse things in life</li> </ul>

Cognitive Emotion Regulation Questionnaire  
CERQ

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Scale name	Items
Catastrophizing	-I often think that what I have experienced is much worse than what others have experienced -I keep thinking about how terrible it is what I have experienced -I often think that what I have experienced is the worst that can happen to a person -I continually think how horrible the situation has been
Blaming others	-I feel that others are to blame for it -I feel that others are responsible for what has happened -I think about the mistakes others have made in this matter -I feel that basically the cause lies with others

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Garnefski, N., Kraaij, V., & Spinhoven, P. (2001). Negative life events, cognitive emotion regulation and emotional problems. *Personality and Individual Differences, Vol 30(8)*, 1311-1327. doi: 10.1016/S0191-8869(00)00113-6



## Parent Attitudes, Beliefs, and Understanding about Anxiety (PABUA)

These questions relate to your attitudes and beliefs about your child when he/she is feeling **nervous** or **anxious**. Please indicate the degree to which you agree with each of the following items using the scale below. There are no right or wrong answers. Simply circle your response to each item.

1	2	3	4	5
Strongly disagree	Disagree somewhat	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree somewhat	Strongly agree

1. My child's anxiety will decrease if he/she avoids what makes him/her anxious.	1	2	3	4	5
2. My child should be excused from activities that make him/her nervous.	1	2	3	4	5
3. A good parent will not push his/her child to do things that makes him/her nervous.	1	2	3	4	5
4. A way to help my child feel less anxious is to encourage him/her to face his/her fears.	1	2	3	4	5
5. Anxious children are sensitive and need to be protected.	1	2	3	4	5
6. If my child had different parents perhaps he/she would not be so anxious.	1	2	3	4	5
7. As a parent I am very limited in how much I can help my child with his/her anxiety.	1	2	3	4	5
8. It is hard for me to be with my child when he/she is nervous.	1	2	3	4	5
9. I feel uncertain about how to help my child when he/she is anxious.	1	2	3	4	5
10. My child is my best friend.	1	2	3	4	5
11. It is important that other people in my child's life (e.g., teachers) do not push him/her to do things that make him/her nervous.	1	2	3	4	5
12. A good parent allows their child to have freedom and experience things on their own.	1	2	3	4	5
13. I feel uncomfortable when my child feels anxious.	1	2	3	4	5
14. It is important that I keep my child safe from his /her worries.	1	2	3	4	5
15. My child should not be worried.	1	2	3	4	5
16. Children can learn a great deal from their mistakes.	1	2	3	4	5
17. It is important that I protect my child from feeling anxious.	1	2	3	4	5
18. My child will be traumatized if I push him/her to do something that makes him/her nervous.	1	2	3	4	5
19. If my child is forced to face his/her anxiety it will make it worse.	1	2	3	4	5
20. I try not to think about my child's anxiety.	1	2	3	4	5
21. It is important for children to see adults cope with anxiety.	1	2	3	4	5

Podell, J.L., Benjamin, C.L., Beidas, R.S., Crawley, S., & Kendall, P.C. (2009). Parent Attitudes and Beliefs about Anxiety (PABA). Unpublished measure.

Wolk, C.B., Caporino, N.E., McQuarrie, S., Settapani, C.A., Podell, J.L., Crawley, S., Beidas, R.S., & Kendall, P.C. (2016). Parental Attitudes, Beliefs, and Understanding of Anxiety (PABUA): Development and psychometric properties of a measure. *Journal of Anxiety Disorders*, 39, 71-78.

### Parental Accommodation Scale

Instructions: Please rate how often you respond to your child's anxiety or distress in the following ways. For each item, circle one number.

	Never/ almost never	Sometimes	Often	Always/ almost always
1. I help my child avoid things or perform behaviours so that he or she feels better immediately.	0	1	2	3
2. I allow my child to avoid things or situations that upset him or her, but don't upset most kids his or her age.	0	1	2	3
3. I put up with unwanted conditions in my home environment so that my child is less upset.	0	1	2	3
4. I am careful not to say or do things that might upset or worry my child.	0	1	2	3
5. I do things for my child when he or she is scared or upset, that he or she should be able to do on his or her own.	0	1	2	3

Meyer, J. M., Clapp, J. D., Whiteside, S. P., Dammann, J., Kriegshauser, K. D., Hale, L. R., Jacobi, D. M., Riemann, B. C., & Deacon, B. J. (2018). Predictive relationship between parental beliefs and accommodation of pediatric anxiety. *Behavior Therapy*, 49, 580-593.

## APPENDIX C2

### SPSS output for Chapter 4

#### Descriptive statistics:

		Descriptive Statistics					
Infant or child		N	Range	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
.00	Parent age	74	27	26	53	33.88	4.584
	Child age	75	2	0	2	1.16	.754
	Valid N (listwise)	74					
1.00	Parent age	170	29	27	56	38.46	5.696
	Child age	170	15	3	18	7.69	3.769
	Valid N (listwise)	170					

#### Infant or child \* Child gender - Selected Choice Crosstabulation

Count		Child gender - Selected Choice			Total
		Male	Female	Other	
Infant or child	Infant 0-2	34	41	0	75
	Child 3-18	76	92	2	170
Total		110	133	2	245

#### Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	.890 <sup>a</sup>	2	.641
Likelihood Ratio	1.469	2	.480
Linear-by-Linear Association	.064	1	.800
N of Valid Cases	245		

a. 2 cells (33.3%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is .61.

#### Symmetric Measures

	Value	Approximate Significance
Nominal by Nominal Phi	.060	.641
Cramer's V	.060	.641
N of Valid Cases	245	

#### Infant or child \* Relation\_to\_child\_simplified2 Crosstabulation

Count		Relation_to_child_simplified2		Total
		Biological mother	Other female caregiver	
Infant or child	Infant 0-2	72	3	75
	Child 3-18	165	5	170
Total		237	8	245

#### Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (1-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	.185 <sup>a</sup>	1	.667		
Continuity Correction <sup>b</sup>	.002	1	.968		
Likelihood Ratio	.178	1	.673		
Fisher's Exact Test				.703	.465
Linear-by-Linear Association	.184	1	.668		
N of Valid Cases	245				

a. 1 cells (25.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 2.45.

b. Computed only for a 2x2 table

**Symmetric Measures**

		Value	Approximate Significance
Nominal by Nominal	Phi	-.027	.667
	Cramer's V	.027	.667
N of Valid Cases		245	

**Infant or child \* Primary Carer Crosstabulation**

Count

		Primary Carer			Total
		Yes	No	Shared	
Infant or child	Infant 0-2	59	0	16	75
	Child 3-18	127	2	41	170
Total		186	2	57	245

**Chi-Square Tests**

	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	1.163 <sup>a</sup>	2	.559
Likelihood Ratio	1.745	2	.418
Linear-by-Linear Association	.330	1	.566
N of Valid Cases	245		

a. 2 cells (33.3%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is .61.

**Symmetric Measures**

		Value	Approximate Significance
Nominal by Nominal	Phi	.069	.559
	Cramer's V	.069	.559
N of Valid Cases		245	

**Infant or child \* Number\_children\_simplified Crosstabulation**

Count

		Number_children_simplified				Total
		1	2	3	4 or more	
Infant or child	Infant 0-2	60	12	2	1	75
	Child 3-18	33	86	42	9	170
Total		93	98	44	10	245

**Chi-Square Tests**

	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	81.967 <sup>a</sup>	3	.000
Likelihood Ratio	85.208	3	.000
Linear-by-Linear Association	59.984	1	.000
N of Valid Cases	245		

a. 1 cells (12.5%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 3.06.

**Symmetric Measures**

		Value	Approximate Significance
Nominal by Nominal	Phi	.578	.000
	Cramer's V	.578	.000
N of Valid Cases		245	

**Infant or child \* 3 categories of parent education Crosstabulation**

Count

		3 categories of parent education			Total
		Post-graduate or Bachelor degree	Associate degree or vocational training	Secondary school or other	
Infant or child	Infant 0-2	65	3	7	75
	Child 3-18	126	22	21	169
Total		191	25	28	244

**Chi-Square Tests**

	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	5.529 <sup>a</sup>	2	.063
Likelihood Ratio	6.297	2	.043
Linear-by-Linear Association	2.650	1	.104
N of Valid Cases	244		

a. 0 cells (.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 7.68.

**Symmetric Measures**

		Value	Approximate Significance
Nominal by Nominal	Phi	.151	.063
	Cramer's V	.151	.063
N of Valid Cases		244	

**Infant or child \* Parent previous mental health dx Crosstabulation**

Count

		Parent previous mental health dx		Total
		Yes	No	
Infant or child	Infant 0-2	41	34	75
	Child 3-18	73	97	170
Total		114	131	245

**Chi-Square Tests**

	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (1-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	2.876 <sup>a</sup>	1	.090		
Continuity Correction <sup>b</sup>	2.424	1	.120		
Likelihood Ratio	2.873	1	.090		
Fisher's Exact Test				.097	.060
Linear-by-Linear Association	2.864	1	.091		
N of Valid Cases	245				

a. 0 cells (.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 34.90.

b. Computed only for a 2x2 table

**Symmetric Measures**

		Value	Approximate Significance
Nominal by Nominal	Phi	.108	.090
	Cramer's V	.108	.090
N of Valid Cases		245	

**Infant or child \* Parent history of mindfulness practice Crosstabulation**

Count

		Parent history of mindfulness practice		Total
		Some mindfulness practice hx	No mindfulness practice hx	
Infant or child	Infant 0-2	42	33	75
	Child 3-18	75	95	170
Total		117	128	245

**Chi-Square Tests**

	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (1-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	2.945 <sup>a</sup>	1	.086		
Continuity Correction <sup>b</sup>	2.488	1	.115		
Likelihood Ratio	2.947	1	.086		
Fisher's Exact Test				.097	.057
Linear-by-Linear Association	2.933	1	.087		
N of Valid Cases	245				

a. 0 cells (.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 35.82.

b. Computed only for a 2x2 table

**Symmetric Measures**

		Value	Approximate Significance
Nominal by Nominal	Phi	.110	.086
	Cramer's V	.110	.086
N of Valid Cases		245	

**Infant or child \* Length\_practice\_categorised Crosstabulation**

Count

		Length_practice_categorised		Total
		< 1 year	>1 year	
Infant or child	Infant 0-2	15	27	42
	Child 3-18	30	42	72
Total		45	69	114

**Chi-Square Tests**

	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (1-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	.393 <sup>a</sup>	1	.531		
Continuity Correction <sup>b</sup>	.184	1	.668		
Likelihood Ratio	.396	1	.529		
Fisher's Exact Test				.558	.335
Linear-by-Linear Association	.390	1	.532		
N of Valid Cases	114				

a. 0 cells (.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 16.58.

b. Computed only for a 2x2 table

**Symmetric Measures**

		Value	Approximate Significance
Nominal by Nominal	Phi	-.059	.531
	Cramer's V	.059	.531
N of Valid Cases		114	

**Infant or child \* Frequency\_practice\_categorised Crosstabulation**

Count

		Frequency_practice_categorised		Total
		< monthly	> monthly	
Infant or child	Infant 0-2	38	4	42
	Child 3-18	63	9	72
Total		101	13	114

**Chi-Square Tests**

	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (1-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	.233 <sup>a</sup>	1	.630		
Continuity Correction <sup>b</sup>	.031	1	.860		
Likelihood Ratio	.238	1	.626		
Fisher's Exact Test				.765	.438
Linear-by-Linear Association	.231	1	.631		
N of Valid Cases	114				

a. 1 cells (25.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 4.79.

b. Computed only for a 2x2 table

**Symmetric Measures**

		Value	Approximate Significance
Nominal by Nominal	Phi	.045	.630
	Cramer's V	.045	.630
N of Valid Cases		114	

**Internal consistency of questionnaires**

**Scale: IMP LFA**

**Reliability Statistics**

Infant or child	Cronbach's Alpha	Cronbach's Alpha Based on Standardized Items	N of Items
Infant 0-2	.853	.856	5
Child 3-18	.888	.889	5

**Scale: IMP CC**

**Reliability Statistics**

Infant or child	Cronbach's Alpha	Cronbach's Alpha Based on Standardized Items	N of Items
Infant 0-2	.789	.798	6
Child 3-18	.849	.851	6

**Scale: IMP NJAPF**

**Reliability Statistics**

Infant or child	Cronbach's Alpha	Cronbach's Alpha Based on Standardized Items	N of Items
Infant 0-2	.846	.851	6
Child 3-18	.824	.825	6

**Scale: IMP EAC**

**Reliability Statistics**

Infant or child	Cronbach's Alpha	Cronbach's Alpha Based on Standardized Items	N of Items
Infant 0-2	.632	.634	3
Child 3-18	.857	.862	3

**Scale: IMP ENRP****Reliability Statistics**

Infant or child	Cronbach's Alpha	Cronbach's Alpha Based on Standardized Items	N of Items
Infant 0-2	.757	.763	5
Child 3-18	.807	.809	5

**Scale: IMP EAS****Reliability Statistics**

Infant or child	Cronbach's Alpha	Cronbach's Alpha Based on Standardized Items	N of Items
Infant 0-2	.726	.731	4
Child 3-18	.800	.799	4

**Scale: SDQ\_2to4\_Internalising****Reliability Statistics**

Infant or child	Cronbach's Alpha	Cronbach's Alpha Based on Standardized Items	N of Items
Infant 0-2	.406	.446	10
Child 3-18	.763	.760	10

**Scale: SDQ\_5to10\_Internalising****Reliability Statistics**

Infant or child	Cronbach's Alpha	Cronbach's Alpha Based on Standardized Items	N of Items
Child 3-18	.706	.704	10

**Scale: SDQ\_11to17\_Internalising****Reliability Statistics**

Infant or child	Cronbach's Alpha	Cronbach's Alpha Based on Standardized Items	N of Items
Child 3-18	.873	.871	10

**Scale: DASS\_Total****Reliability Statistics**

Infant or child	Cronbach's Alpha	Cronbach's Alpha Based on Standardized Items	N of Items
Infant 0-2	.923	.924	21
Child 3-18	.930	.930	21

**Scale: CERQ\_Maladaptive****Reliability Statistics**

Infant or child	Cronbach's Alpha	Cronbach's Alpha Based on Standardized Items	N of Items
Infant 0-2	.880	.886	16
Child 3-18	.862	.858	16

**Scale: CERQ\_Adaptive****Reliability Statistics**

Infant or child	Cronbach's Alpha	Cronbach's Alpha Based on Standardized Items	N of Items
Infant 0-2	.922	.920	20
Child 3-18	.907	.905	20



**Scale: PAB\_Overprotection****Reliability Statistics**

Infant or child	Cronbach's Alpha	Cronbach's Alpha Based on Standardized Items	N of Items
Infant 0-2	.882	.893	11
Child 3-18	.855	.862	11

**Scale: PAB\_Approach****Reliability Statistics**

Infant or child	Cronbach's Alpha	Cronbach's Alpha Based on Standardized Items	N of Items
Infant 0-2	.283	.280	4
Child 3-18	.412	.424	4

**Scale: PAB\_Distress****Reliability Statistics**

Infant or child	Cronbach's Alpha	Cronbach's Alpha Based on Standardized Items	N of Items
Infant 0-2	.568	.575	6
Child 3-18	.709	.707	6

**Scale: PAAQ\_Total****Reliability Statistics**

Infant or child	Cronbach's Alpha	Cronbach's Alpha Based on Standardized Items	N of Items
Infant 0-2	.813	.822	15
Child 3-18	.833	.840	15

**Scale: PAS\_Behaviour****Reliability Statistics**

Infant or child	Cronbach's Alpha	Cronbach's Alpha Based on Standardized Items	N of Items
Infant 0-2	.777	.792	5
Child 3-18	.768	.768	5

**Preliminary Analyses****IMP and Parent and Child age:****Correlations**

		Parent age	Child age	IMP_29_Total
Parent age	Pearson Correlation	1	.563**	.040
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000	.535
	N	244	244	244
Child age	Pearson Correlation	.563**	1	-.109
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000		.090
	N	244	245	245
IMP_29_Total	Pearson Correlation	.040	-.109	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.535	.090	
	N	244	245	245

\*\* . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

**IMP and child gender:**

**Descriptives**

IMP\_29\_Total

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error	95% Confidence Interval for Mean		Minimum	Maximum
					Lower Bound	Upper Bound		
Male	110	103.0364	14.38203	1.37127	100.3185	105.7542	70.00	134.00
Female	133	104.0827	13.34339	1.15702	101.7940	106.3714	63.00	136.00
Other	2	110.5000	16.26346	11.50000	-35.6214	256.6214	99.00	122.00
Total	245	103.6653	13.80077	.88170	101.9286	105.4020	63.00	136.00

**ANOVA**

IMP\_29\_Total

	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	160.110	2	80.055	.418	.659
Within Groups	46312.445	242	191.374		
Total	46472.555	244			

**IMP and Parent relationship to child:**

**Descriptives**

IMP\_29\_Total

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error	95% Confidence Interval for Mean		Minimum	Maximum
					Lower Bound	Upper Bound		
Biological mother	237	103.3376	13.79342	.89598	101.5724	105.1027	63.00	136.00
Other female caregiver	8	113.3750	10.63602	3.76040	104.4831	122.2669	98.00	127.00
Total	245	103.6653	13.80077	.88170	101.9286	105.4020	63.00	136.00

**ANOVA**

IMP\_29\_Total

	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	779.684	1	779.684	4.146	.043
Within Groups	45692.871	243	188.037		
Total	46472.555	244			

**IMP and Caregiver role:**

**Descriptives**

IMP\_29\_Total

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error	95% Confidence Interval for Mean		Minimum	Maximum
					Lower Bound	Upper Bound		
Yes	186	103.3226	13.46199	.98708	101.3752	105.2700	63.00	136.00
No	2	92.0000	29.69848	21.00000	-174.8303	358.8303	71.00	113.00
Shared	57	105.1930	14.41532	1.90936	101.3681	109.0179	67.00	128.00
Total	245	103.6653	13.80077	.88170	101.9286	105.4020	63.00	136.00

**ANOVA**

IMP\_29\_Total

	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	427.033	2	213.516	1.122	.327
Within Groups	46045.522	242	190.271		
Total	46472.555	244			

**IMP and Number of children in family:**

**Descriptives**

IMP\_29\_Total

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error	95% Confidence Interval for Mean		Minimum	Maximum
					Lower Bound	Upper Bound		
1 child	93	108.0430	11.35965	1.17794	105.7035	110.3825	79.00	136.00
2 children	98	102.5102	14.06850	1.42113	99.6896	105.3308	70.00	134.00
3 or more children	54	98.2222	14.97755	2.03819	94.1341	102.3103	63.00	126.00
Total	245	103.6653	13.80077	.88170	101.9286	105.4020	63.00	136.00

**ANOVA**

IMP\_29\_Total

	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	3512.904	2	1756.452	9.894	.000
Within Groups	42959.651	242	177.519		
Total	46472.555	244			

**IMP and Parent highest level of education:**

**Descriptives**

IMP\_29\_Total

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error	95% Confidence Interval for Mean		Minimum	Maximum
					Lower Bound	Upper Bound		
Post-graduate or Bachelor degree	191	104.1152	13.55602	.98088	102.1804	106.0500	67.00	136.00
Associate degree or vocational training	25	101.1200	15.18036	3.03607	94.8539	107.3861	63.00	127.00
Secondary school or other	28	104.0357	13.27064	2.50791	98.8899	109.1815	79.00	131.00
Total	244	103.7992	13.66880	.87506	102.0755	105.5228	63.00	136.00

**ANOVA**

IMP\_29\_Total

	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	200.090	2	100.045	.533	.587
Within Groups	45201.070	241	187.556		
Total	45401.160	243			

**IMP and Parent previous mental health diagnosis:**

**Descriptives**

IMP\_29\_Total

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error	95% Confidence Interval for Mean		Minimum	Maximum
					Lower Bound	Upper Bound		
Yes	114	102.5088	13.71211	1.28426	99.9644	105.0531	70.00	136.00
No	131	104.6718	13.85110	1.21018	102.2776	107.0659	63.00	134.00
Total	245	103.6653	13.80077	.88170	101.9286	105.4020	63.00	136.00

**ANOVA**

IMP\_29\_Total

	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	285.178	1	285.178	1.500	.222
Within Groups	46187.377	243	190.072		
Total	46472.555	244			

**IMP and Parent history of formal mindfulness practice:**

**Descriptives**

IMP\_29\_Total

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error	95% Confidence Interval for Mean		Minimum	Maximum
					Lower Bound	Upper Bound		
Some mindfulness practice hx	117	105.6838	13.36597	1.23568	103.2363	108.1312	71.00	136.00
No mindfulness practice hx	128	101.8203	13.98449	1.23607	99.3744	104.2663	63.00	134.00
Total	245	103.6653	13.80077	.88170	101.9286	105.4020	63.00	136.00

**ANOVA**

IMP\_29\_Total

	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	912.389	1	912.389	4.866	.028
Within Groups	45560.166	243	187.490		
Total	46472.555	244			

**IMP and Length of mindfulness practice:**

**Descriptives**

IMP\_29\_Total

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error	95% Confidence Interval for Mean		Minimum	Maximum
					Lower Bound	Upper Bound		
< 1 year	63	101.7302	13.47543	1.69775	98.3364	105.1239	70.00	127.00
>1 year	97	107.7216	12.86852	1.30660	105.1281	110.3152	76.00	136.00
Total	160	105.3625	13.39459	1.05894	103.2711	107.4539	70.00	136.00

**ANOVA**

IMP\_29\_Total

	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	1371.078	1	1371.078	7.977	.005
Within Groups	27155.897	158	171.873		
Total	28526.975	159			

**IMP and Frequency of mindfulness practice:**

**Descriptives**

IMP\_29\_Total

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error	95% Confidence Interval for Mean		Minimum	Maximum
					Lower Bound	Upper Bound		
< monthly	141	105.1844	13.46244	1.13374	102.9429	107.4259	70.00	136.00
> monthly	19	106.6842	13.15739	3.01851	100.3426	113.0259	76.00	128.00
Total	160	105.3625	13.39459	1.05894	103.2711	107.4539	70.00	136.00

**ANOVA**

IMP\_29\_Total

	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	37.664	1	37.664	.209	.648
Within Groups	28489.311	158	180.312		
Total	28526.975	159			

**Correlation Analyses**

**Correlations**

		IMP_Dutch_L FA	IMP_Dutch_C C	IMP_Dutch_E AC	IMP_Dutch_N JAPF	IMP_Dutch_E NRP	IMP_Dutch_E AS	SDQ Internalizing all ages	DASS_Total	PAAQ_Total	CERQ_Adapti ve	CERQ_Malad aptive	PAB_Overprot ection	PAS_Behavio ur
IMP_Dutch_LFA	Pearson Correlation	1	.496**	.345**	.398**	.594**	.480**	-.206**	-.256**	-.357**	.095	-.238**	-.072	-.223**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.008	.000	.000	.141	.000	.286	.001
	N	245	245	245	245	245	245	163	236	212	242	244	222	202
IMP_Dutch_CC	Pearson Correlation	.496**	1	.468**	.388**	.521**	.629**	-.174*	-.173**	-.491**	.324**	-.129*	-.037	-.074
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000		.000	.000	.000	.000	.026	.008	.000	.000	.044	.582	.295
	N	245	245	245	245	245	245	163	236	212	242	244	222	202
IMP_Dutch_EAC	Pearson Correlation	.345**	.468**	1	.234**	.359**	.418**	-.294**	-.104	-.275**	.213**	.039	-.017	-.144*
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000		.000	.000	.000	.000	.110	.000	.001	.542	.802	.041
	N	245	245	245	245	245	245	163	236	212	242	244	222	202
IMP_Dutch_NJAPF	Pearson Correlation	.398**	.388**	.234**	1	.637**	.402**	-.400**	-.525**	-.678**	.236**	-.550**	-.267**	-.363**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000	.000		.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000
	N	245	245	245	245	245	245	163	236	212	242	244	222	202
IMP_Dutch_ENRP	Pearson Correlation	.594**	.521**	.359**	.637**	1	.658**	-.323**	-.380**	-.582**	.161*	-.385**	-.106	-.232**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000	.000	.000		.000	.000	.000	.000	.012	.000	.116	.001
	N	245	245	245	245	245	245	163	236	212	242	244	222	202
IMP_Dutch_EAS	Pearson Correlation	.480**	.629**	.418**	.402**	.658**	1	-.278**	-.253**	-.490**	.376**	-.177**	-.082	-.171*
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000		.000	.000	.000	.000	.006	.224	.015
	N	245	245	245	245	245	245	163	236	212	242	244	222	202
SDQ Internalizing all ages	Pearson Correlation	-.206**	-.174*	-.294**	-.400**	-.323**	-.278**	1	.344**	.525**	-.151	.251**	.275**	.378**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.008	.026	.000	.000	.000	.000		.000	.000	.056	.001	.000	.000
	N	163	163	163	163	163	163	163	154	163	161	163	163	163
DASS_Total	Pearson Correlation	-.256**	-.173**	-.104	-.525**	-.380**	-.253**	.344**	1	.468**	-.164*	.621**	.216**	.296**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.008	.110	.000	.000	.000	.000		.000	.012	.000	.001	.000
	N	236	236	236	236	236	236	154	236	203	233	235	213	193
PAAQ_Total	Pearson Correlation	-.357**	-.491**	-.275**	-.678**	-.582**	-.490**	.525**	.468**	1	-.305**	.447**	.467**	.508**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000		.000	.000	.000	.000
	N	212	212	212	212	212	212	163	203	212	210	212	211	202
CERQ_Adaptive	Pearson Correlation	.095	.324**	.213**	.236**	.161*	.376**	-.151	-.164*	-.305**	1	-.095	-.216**	-.142*
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.141	.000	.001	.000	.012	.000	.056	.012	.000		.141	.001	.045
	N	242	242	242	242	242	242	161	233	210	242	242	220	200
CERQ_Maladaptive	Pearson Correlation	-.238**	-.129*	.039	-.550**	-.385**	-.177**	.251**	.621**	.447**	-.095	1	.269**	.390**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.044	.542	.000	.000	.006	.001	.000	.000	.141		.000	.000
	N	244	244	244	244	244	244	163	235	212	242	244	222	202
PAB_Overprotection	Pearson Correlation	-.072	-.037	-.017	-.267**	-.106	-.082	.275**	.216**	.467**	-.216**	.269**	1	.559**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.286	.582	.802	.000	.116	.224	.000	.001	.000	.001	.000		.000
	N	222	222	222	222	222	222	163	213	211	220	222	222	202
PAS_Behaviour	Pearson Correlation	-.223**	-.074	-.144*	-.363**	-.232**	-.171*	.378**	.296**	.508**	-.142*	.390**	.559**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.001	.295	.041	.000	.001	.015	.000	.000	.000	.045	.000	.000	
	N	202	202	202	202	202	202	163	193	202	200	202	202	202

\*\* . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

\*. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

## Correlations for mothers of children

### Correlations

		SDQ Internalizing all ages
Parent age	Pearson Correlation	-.010
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.895
	N	163
Child age	Pearson Correlation	.236**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.002
	N	163
Child_gender_categorised	Pearson Correlation	.121
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.126
	N	162
Mindfulness_hx_for_corrs	Pearson Correlation	.074
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.345
	N	163
Length_practice_for_corrs	Pearson Correlation	-.140
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.239
	N	72
Freq_practce_for_corrs	Pearson Correlation	-.075
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.532
	N	72

\*\* . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

### Correlations

		PAAQ_To tal	CERQ_Adapt ive	CERQ_Maladap tive	PAB_Overprotec tion	PAS_Behavi our
Parent age	Pearson Correlation	-.094	-.078	-.251**	-.136	-.203*
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.254	.314	.001	.090	.015
	N	148	168	170	156	143
Child age	Pearson Correlation	.021	-.055	-.180*	-.103	-.067
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.798	.481	.019	.199	.426
	N	148	168	170	156	143
Child_gender_cat egorised	Pearson Correlation	.105	-.053	.051	.136	.216**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.205	.496	.515	.092	.010
	N	147	166	168	155	142
Mindfulness_hx_f or_corrs	Pearson Correlation	-.033	.111	.113	-.082	.069
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.693	.150	.141	.307	.411
	N	148	168	170	156	143
Length_practice_f or_corrs	Pearson Correlation	-.148	.145	-.139	.081	.006
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.263	.231	.244	.528	.967
	N	59	70	72	63	58
Freq_practce_for _corrs	Pearson Correlation	-.012	.166	.055	-.101	-.005
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.931	.170	.649	.429	.973
	N	59	70	72	63	58

- \*\* . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).  
 \* . Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

### Correlations for mothers of infants

		Correlations				
		PAAQ_Tot	CERQ_Adaptive	CERQ_Maladaptive	PAB_Overprotection	PAS_Behaviour
Parent age	Pearson Correlation	-.166	-.018	.016	.021	-.132
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.191	.877	.893	.870	.321
	N	64	73	73	66	59
Child age	Pearson Correlation	-.345**	.053	.012	-.062	-.089
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.005	.654	.918	.620	.505
	N	64	74	74	66	59
Child_gender_categorised	Pearson Correlation	-.075	.075	.026	.063	.029
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.555	.524	.826	.614	.829
	N	64	74	74	66	59
Mindfulness_hx_for_corrs	Pearson Correlation	-.129	.076	-.008	-.091	.021
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.308	.518	.944	.465	.874
	N	64	74	74	66	59
Length_practice_for_corrs	Pearson Correlation	-.235	.170	-.143	-.125	-.296
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.161	.088	.374	.454	.095
	N	37	41	41	38	33
Freq_practce_for_corrs	Pearson Correlation	.123	-.076	-.047	-.114	-.022
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.467	.636	.770	.495	.904
	N	37	41	41	38	33

\*\* . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

### Regression for Child internalizing problems

Model Summary									
Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	R Square Change	Change Statistics			Sig. F Change
						F Change	df1	df2	
1	.410 <sup>a</sup>	.168	.157	3.42311	.168	15.220	2	151	.000
2	.507 <sup>b</sup>	.257	.216	3.30141	.089	2.890	6	145	.011

a. Predictors: (Constant), DASS\_Total, Child age

b. Predictors: (Constant), DASS\_Total, Child age, IMP\_Dutch\_CC, IMP\_Dutch\_EAC, IMP\_Dutch\_LFA, IMP\_Dutch\_NJAPF, IMP\_Dutch\_EAS, IMP\_Dutch\_ENRP

ANOVA <sup>a</sup>						
Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	356.680	2	178.340	15.220	.000 <sup>b</sup>
	Residual	1769.374	151	11.718		

	Total	2126.055	153			
2	Regression	545.659	8	68.207	6.258	.000 <sup>c</sup>
	Residual	1580.395	145	10.899		
	Total	2126.055	153			

a. Dependent Variable: SDQ Internalizing all ages

b. Predictors: (Constant), DASS\_Total, Child age

c. Predictors: (Constant), DASS\_Total, Child age, IMP\_Dutch\_CC, IMP\_Dutch\_EAC, IMP\_Dutch\_LFA, IMP\_Dutch\_NJAPF, IMP\_Dutch\_EAS, IMP\_Dutch\_ENRP

		Coefficients <sup>a</sup>				Correlations			
		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients					
Model		B	Std. Error	Beta	t	Sig.	Zero-order	Partial	Part
1	(Constant)	2.762	.661		4.181	.000			
	Child age	.206	.069	.222	2.991	.003	.236	.237	.222
	DASS_Total	.136	.030	.335	4.512	.000	.344	.345	.335
2	(Constant)	9.732	2.654		3.667	.000			
	Child age	.165	.068	.177	2.409	.017	.236	.196	.172
	DASS_Total	.068	.035	.168	1.966	.051	.344	.161	.141
	IMP_Dutch_LFA	-.011	.107	-.010	-.102	.919	-.206	-.009	-.007
	IMP_Dutch_CC	.145	.124	.121	1.174	.242	-.174	.097	.084
	IMP_Dutch_EAC	-.310	.157	-.168	-1.978	.050	-.294	-.162	-.142
	IMP_Dutch_NJAPF	-.214	.091	-.251	-2.342	.021	-.400	-.191	-.168
	IMP_Dutch_ENRP	.012	.146	.010	.081	.935	-.323	.007	.006
	IMP_Dutch_EAS	-.154	.161	-.106	-.960	.339	-.278	-.079	-.069

a. Dependent Variable: SDQ Internalizing all ages

### Regressions for parent variables (mothers of children)

Parental experiential avoidance (PAAQ Total):

Model Summary									
Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	R Square Change	Change Statistics			Sig. F Change
						F Change	df1	df2	
1	.643 <sup>a</sup>	.414	.405	8.71858	.414	45.874	2	130	.000
2	.795 <sup>b</sup>	.632	.608	7.07174	.218	12.266	6	124	.000

a. Predictors: (Constant), SDQ Internalizing all ages, DASS\_Total

b. Predictors: (Constant), SDQ Internalizing all ages, DASS\_Total, IMP\_Dutch\_CC, IMP\_Dutch\_EAC, IMP\_Dutch\_LFA, IMP\_Dutch\_NJAPF, IMP\_Dutch\_EAS, IMP\_Dutch\_ENRP

ANOVA <sup>a</sup>						
Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	6974.104	2	3487.052	45.874	.000 <sup>b</sup>
	Residual	9881.779	130	76.014		
	Total	16855.883	132			
2	Regression	10654.705	8	1331.838	26.632	.000 <sup>c</sup>
	Residual	6201.178	124	50.009		
	Total	16855.883	132			

a. Dependent Variable: PAAQ\_Total

b. Predictors: (Constant), SDQ Internalizing all ages, DASS\_Total

c. Predictors: (Constant), SDQ Internalizing all ages, DASS\_Total, IMP\_Dutch\_CC, IMP\_Dutch\_EAC, IMP\_Dutch\_LFA, IMP\_Dutch\_NJAPF, IMP\_Dutch\_EAS, IMP\_Dutch\_ENRP



Coefficients <sup>a</sup>										
Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients		t	Sig.	Correlations		
		B	Std. Error	Beta				Zero-order	Partial	Part
1	(Constant)	35.608	1.588			22.429	.000			
	DASS_Total	.460	.086	.383		5.330	.000	.524	.424	.358
	SDQ Internalizing all ages	1.167	.210	.399		5.562	.000	.534	.438	.373
2	(Constant)	79.767	6.101			13.074	.000			
	DASS_Total	.220	.078	.183		2.817	.006	.524	.245	.153
	SDQ Internalizing all ages	.841	.183	.288		4.604	.000	.534	.382	.251
	IMP_Dutch_LFA	.127	.241	.038		.527	.599	-.392	.047	.029
	IMP_Dutch_CC	-.878	.290	-.240		-3.028	.003	-.473	-.262	-.165
	IMP_Dutch_EAC	.383	.354	.071		1.083	.281	-.299	.097	.059
	IMP_Dutch_NJAPF	-.906	.216	-.346		-4.192	.000	-.687	-.352	-.228
	IMP_Dutch_ENRP	-.339	.341	-.096		-.995	.322	-.584	-.089	-.054
	IMP_Dutch_EAS	-.110	.363	-.025		-.304	.762	-.454	-.027	-.017

a. Dependent Variable: PAAQ\_Total

**Adaptive cognitive emotion regulation (CERQ Adaptive):**

**Model Summary**

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	R Square Change	Change Statistics			Sig. F Change
						F Change	df1	df2	
1	.189 <sup>a</sup>	.036	.021	12.73059	.036	2.417	2	130	.093
2	.434 <sup>b</sup>	.189	.136	11.95710	.153	3.894	6	124	.001

a. Predictors: (Constant), SDQ Internalizing all ages, DASS\_Total

b. Predictors: (Constant), SDQ Internalizing all ages, DASS\_Total, IMP\_Dutch\_CC, IMP\_Dutch\_EAC, IMP\_Dutch\_LFA, IMP\_Dutch\_NJAPF, IMP\_Dutch\_EAS, IMP\_Dutch\_ENRP

**ANOVA<sup>a</sup>**

Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	783.329	2	391.664	2.417	.093 <sup>b</sup>
	Residual	21068.820	130	162.068		
	Total	21852.149	132			
2	Regression	4123.603	8	515.450	3.605	.001 <sup>c</sup>
	Residual	17728.546	124	142.972		
	Total	21852.149	132			

a. Dependent Variable: CERQ\_Adaptive

b. Predictors: (Constant), SDQ Internalizing all ages, DASS\_Total

c. Predictors: (Constant), SDQ Internalizing all ages, DASS\_Total, IMP\_Dutch\_CC, IMP\_Dutch\_EAC, IMP\_Dutch\_LFA, IMP\_Dutch\_NJAPF, IMP\_Dutch\_EAS, IMP\_Dutch\_ENRP

Coefficients <sup>a</sup>										
Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients		t	Sig.	Correlations		
		B	Std. Error	Beta				Zero-order	Partial	Part
1	(Constant)	60.034	2.318			25.898	.000			
	DASS_Total	-.189	.126	-.138		-1.497	.137	-.170	-.130	-.129
	SDQ Internalizing all ages	-.299	.306	-.090		-.977	.330	-.139	-.085	-.084
2	(Constant)	32.366	10.316			3.137	.002			
	DASS_Total	-.160	.132	-.117		-1.208	.229	-.170	-.108	-.098

SDQ Internalizing all ages	-.004	.309	-.001	-.014	.989	-.139	-.001	-.001
IMP_Dutch_LFA	-.212	.407	-.056	-.522	.602	.095	-.047	-.042
IMP_Dutch_CC	.436	.490	.105	.891	.375	.250	.080	.072
IMP_Dutch_EAC	.621	.598	.101	1.038	.301	.219	.093	.084
IMP_Dutch_NJAPF	.498	.365	.167	1.363	.175	.177	.122	.110
IMP_Dutch_ENRP	-1.582	.576	-.392	-2.746	.007	.098	-.239	-.222
IMP_Dutch_EAS	2.075	.615	.409	3.377	.001	.330	.290	.273

a. Dependent Variable: CERQ\_Adaptive

**Maladaptive cognitive emotion regulation (CERQ Maladaptive):**

**Model Summary**

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	R Square Change	Change Statistics			Sig. F Change
						F Change	df1	df2	
1	.646 <sup>a</sup>	.417	.399	6.74519	.417	22.883	4	128	.000
2	.747 <sup>b</sup>	.557	.521	6.01998	.140	6.450	6	122	.000

a. Predictors: (Constant), SDQ Internalizing all ages, Parent age, DASS\_Total, Child age

b. Predictors: (Constant), SDQ Internalizing all ages, Parent age, DASS\_Total, Child age, IMP\_Dutch\_CC, IMP\_Dutch\_EAC, IMP\_Dutch\_LFA, IMP\_Dutch\_NJAPF, IMP\_Dutch\_EAS, IMP\_Dutch\_ENRP

**ANOVA<sup>a</sup>**

Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	4164.499	4	1041.125	22.883	.000 <sup>b</sup>
	Residual	5823.693	128	45.498		
	Total	9988.191	132			
2	Regression	5566.899	10	556.690	15.361	.000 <sup>c</sup>
	Residual	4421.293	122	36.240		
	Total	9988.191	132			

a. Dependent Variable: CERQ\_Maladaptive

b. Predictors: (Constant), SDQ Internalizing all ages, Parent age, DASS\_Total, Child age

c. Predictors: (Constant), SDQ Internalizing all ages, Parent age, DASS\_Total, Child age, IMP\_Dutch\_CC, IMP\_Dutch\_EAC, IMP\_Dutch\_LFA, IMP\_Dutch\_NJAPF, IMP\_Dutch\_EAS, IMP\_Dutch\_ENRP

**Coefficients<sup>a</sup>**

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients		Sig.	Correlations		
		B	Std. Error	Beta	t		Zero-order	Partial	Part
1	(Constant)	31.634	4.632		6.829	.000			
	Parent age	-.057	.126	-.037	-.451	.653	-.251	-.040	-.030
	Child age	-.398	.189	-.172	-2.105	.037	-.180	-.183	-.142
	DASS_Total	.536	.068	.580	7.887	.000	.615	.572	.532
	SDQ Internalizing all ages	.175	.166	.078	1.051	.295	.257	.093	.071
2	(Constant)	36.338	6.740		5.391	.000			
	Parent age	-.005	.114	-.003	-.044	.965	-.251	-.004	-.003
	Child age	-.255	.171	-.110	-1.486	.140	-.180	-.133	-.089
	DASS_Total	.398	.067	.430	5.900	.000	.615	.471	.355
	SDQ Internalizing all ages	.121	.159	.054	.762	.448	.257	.069	.046
	IMP_Dutch_LFA	-.016	.209	-.006	-.076	.940	-.272	-.007	-.005
	IMP_Dutch_CC	-.207	.247	-.074	-.839	.403	-.164	-.076	-.051
	IMP_Dutch_EAC	1.029	.309	.247	3.330	.001	.051	.289	.201
IMP_Dutch_NJAPF	-.581	.184	-.288	-3.161	.002	-.566	-.275	-.190	

IMP_Dutch_ENRP	-.591	.291	-.217	-2.029	.045	-.434	-.181	-.122
IMP_Dutch_EAS	.594	.311	.173	1.913	.058	-.146	.171	.115

a. Dependent Variable: CERQ\_Maladaptive

**Overprotection beliefs (PABUA Overprotective):**

**Model Summary**

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	R Square Change	Change Statistics			Sig. F Change
						F Change	df1	df2	
1	.341 <sup>a</sup>	.116	.103	7.03115	.116	8.546	2	130	.000
2	.423 <sup>b</sup>	.179	.126	6.94056	.062	1.569	6	124	.162

a. Predictors: (Constant), SDQ Internalizing all ages, DASS\_Total

b. Predictors: (Constant), SDQ Internalizing all ages, DASS\_Total, IMP\_Dutch\_CC, IMP\_Dutch\_EAC, IMP\_Dutch\_LFA, IMP\_Dutch\_NJAPF, IMP\_Dutch\_EAS, IMP\_Dutch\_ENRP

**ANOVA<sup>a</sup>**

Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	845.013	2	422.507	8.546	.000 <sup>b</sup>
	Residual	6426.822	130	49.437		
	Total	7271.835	132			
2	Regression	1298.592	8	162.324	3.370	.002 <sup>c</sup>
	Residual	5973.243	124	48.171		
	Total	7271.835	132			

a. Dependent Variable: PAB\_Overprotection

b. Predictors: (Constant), SDQ Internalizing all ages, DASS\_Total

c. Predictors: (Constant), SDQ Internalizing all ages, DASS\_Total, IMP\_Dutch\_CC, IMP\_Dutch\_EAC, IMP\_Dutch\_LFA, IMP\_Dutch\_NJAPF, IMP\_Dutch\_EAS, IMP\_Dutch\_ENRP

**Coefficients<sup>a</sup>**

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.	Correlations		
		B	Std. Error	Beta			Zero-order	Partial	Part
1	(Constant)	22.207	1.280		17.345	.000			
	DASS_Total	.148	.070	.188	2.134	.035	.268	.184	.176
	SDQ Internalizing all ages	.433	.169	.226	2.559	.012	.292	.219	.211
2	(Constant)	23.076	5.988		3.854	.000			
	DASS_Total	.066	.077	.084	.863	.390	.268	.077	.070
	SDQ Internalizing all ages	.384	.179	.200	2.143	.034	.292	.189	.174
	IMP_Dutch_LFA	-.186	.236	-.085	-.788	.432	-.137	-.071	-.064
	IMP_Dutch_CC	.156	.284	.065	.550	.584	-.038	.049	.045
	IMP_Dutch_EAC	.430	.347	.121	1.237	.218	-.009	.110	.101
	IMP_Dutch_NJAPF	-.557	.212	-.324	-2.626	.010	-.337	-.230	-.214
	IMP_Dutch_ENRP	.324	.334	.139	.968	.335	-.156	.087	.079
IMP_Dutch_EAS	-.074	.357	-.025	-.206	.837	-.086	-.019	-.017	

a. Dependent Variable: PAB\_Overprotection

**Accommodation (PAS Behaviour):**

**Model Summary**

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	R Square Change	Change Statistics			Sig. F Change
						F Change	df1	df2	
1	.506 <sup>a</sup>	.256	.232	2.12032	.256	10.995	4	128	.000
2	.575 <sup>b</sup>	.331	.276	2.05954	.075	2.278	6	122	.041

a. Predictors: (Constant), SDQ Internalizing all ages, Parent age, Child\_gender\_categorised, DASS\_Total

b. Predictors: (Constant), SDQ Internalizing all ages, Parent age, Child\_gender\_categorised, DASS\_Total, IMP\_Dutch\_CC, IMP\_Dutch\_EAC, IMP\_Dutch\_LFA, IMP\_Dutch\_NJAPF, IMP\_Dutch\_EAS, IMP\_Dutch\_ENRP

ANOVA <sup>a</sup>						
Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	197.715	4	49.429	10.995	.000 <sup>b</sup>
	Residual	575.459	128	4.496		
	Total	773.174	132			
2	Regression	255.688	10	25.569	6.028	.000 <sup>c</sup>
	Residual	517.486	122	4.242		
	Total	773.174	132			

a. Dependent Variable: PAS\_Behaviour

b. Predictors: (Constant), SDQ Internalizing all ages, Parent age, Child\_gender\_categorised, DASS\_Total

c. Predictors: (Constant), SDQ Internalizing all ages, Parent age, Child\_gender\_categorised, DASS\_Total, IMP\_Dutch\_CC, IMP\_Dutch\_EAC, IMP\_Dutch\_LFA, IMP\_Dutch\_NJAPF, IMP\_Dutch\_EAS, IMP\_Dutch\_ENRP

Coefficients <sup>a</sup>									
Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients		Sig.	Correlations		
		B	Std. Error	Beta	t		Zero-order	Partial	Part
1	(Constant)	3.166	1.412		2.243	.027			
	Parent age	-.050	.033	-.117	-1.498	.137	-.203	-.131	-.114
	Child_gender_categorised	.785	.375	.162	2.095	.038	.216	.182	.160
	DASS_Total	.056	.021	.217	2.617	.010	.350	.225	.200
	SDQ Internalizing all ages	.187	.051	.298	3.633	.000	.405	.306	.277
2	(Constant)	5.014	2.322		2.160	.033			
	Parent age	-.038	.034	-.090	-1.141	.256	-.203	-.103	-.085
	Child_gender_categorised	.580	.374	.120	1.550	.124	.216	.139	.115
	DASS_Total	.026	.023	.100	1.113	.268	.350	.100	.082
	SDQ Internalizing all ages	.148	.053	.237	2.772	.006	.405	.243	.205
	IMP_Dutch_LFA	-.141	.072	-.199	-1.957	.053	-.310	-.174	-.145
	IMP_Dutch_CC	.097	.084	.124	1.147	.254	-.117	.103	.085
	IMP_Dutch_EAC	-.033	.105	-.028	-.313	.755	-.178	-.028	-.023
	IMP_Dutch_NJAPF	-.181	.063	-.323	-2.872	.005	-.440	-.252	-.213
	IMP_Dutch_ENRP	.113	.100	.149	1.136	.258	-.260	.102	.084
IMP_Dutch_EAS	-.002	.107	-.002	-.016	.987	-.150	-.001	-.001	

a. Dependent Variable: PAS\_Behaviour

## Regressions for parent variables (mothers of infants)

Parental experiential avoidance (PAAQ Total):

Model Summary									
Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	R Square Change	Change Statistics			Sig. F Change
						F Change	df1	df2	
1	.473 <sup>a</sup>	.224	.198	10.46719	.224	8.514	2	59	.001
2	.809 <sup>b</sup>	.654	.602	7.36992	.430	11.002	6	53	.000

a. Predictors: (Constant), DASS\_Total, Child age

b. Predictors: (Constant), DASS\_Total, Child age, IMP\_Dutch\_EAC, IMP\_Dutch\_LFA, IMP\_Dutch\_CC, IMP\_Dutch\_NJAPF, IMP\_Dutch\_ENRP, IMP\_Dutch\_EAS

ANOVA <sup>a</sup>						
Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	1865.710	2	932.855	8.514	.001 <sup>b</sup>
	Residual	6464.163	59	109.562		
	Total	8329.874	61			
2	Regression	5451.139	8	681.392	12.545	.000 <sup>c</sup>
	Residual	2878.735	53	54.316		
	Total	8329.874	61			

a. Dependent Variable: PAAQ\_Total

b. Predictors: (Constant), DASS\_Total, Child age

c. Predictors: (Constant), DASS\_Total, Child age, IMP\_Dutch\_EAC, IMP\_Dutch\_LFA, IMP\_Dutch\_CC, IMP\_Dutch\_NJAPF, IMP\_Dutch\_ENRP, IMP\_Dutch\_EAS

Coefficients <sup>a</sup>									
Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients		Sig.	Correlations		
		B	Std. Error	Beta	t		Zero-order	Partial	Part
1	(Constant)	48.181	3.029		15.907	.000			
	Child age	-5.510	1.778	-.356	-3.099	.003	-.345	-.374	-.355
	DASS_Total	.475	.168	.324	2.821	.007	.313	.345	.324
2	(Constant)	109.533	10.917		10.033	.000			
	Child age	-3.099	1.325	-.200	-2.339	.023	-.345	-.306	-.189
	DASS_Total	-.081	.143	-.056	-.568	.573	.313	-.078	-.046
	IMP_Dutch_LFA	.764	.421	.179	1.814	.075	-.246	.242	.146
	IMP_Dutch_CC	-.618	.457	-.148	-1.353	.182	-.531	-.183	-.109
	IMP_Dutch_EAC	.460	.706	.063	.651	.518	-.240	.089	.053
	IMP_Dutch_NJAPF	-1.119	.282	-.429	-3.969	.000	-.650	-.479	-.320
	IMP_Dutch_ENRP	-.972	.494	-.238	-1.967	.054	-.594	-.261	-.159
	IMP_Dutch_EAS	-1.447	.622	-.288	-2.328	.024	-.565	-.305	-.188

a. Dependent Variable: PAAQ\_Total

#### Adaptive cognitive emotion regulation (CERQ Adaptive):

Model Summary									
Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	R Square Change	Change Statistics			Sig. F Change
						F Change	df1	df2	
1	.133 <sup>a</sup>	.018	.004	13.69632	.018	1.256	1	70	.266
2	.604 <sup>b</sup>	.364	.295	11.52239	.347	5.818	6	64	.000

a. Predictors: (Constant), DASS\_Total

b. Predictors: (Constant), DASS\_Total, IMP\_Dutch\_EAC, IMP\_Dutch\_LFA, IMP\_Dutch\_CC, IMP\_Dutch\_NJAPF, IMP\_Dutch\_ENRP, IMP\_Dutch\_EAS

ANOVA <sup>a</sup>						
Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	235.570	1	235.570	1.256	.266 <sup>b</sup>
	Residual	13131.251	70	187.589		
	Total	13366.821	71			
2	Regression	4869.836	7	695.691	5.240	.000 <sup>c</sup>
	Residual	8496.985	64	132.765		
	Total	13366.821	71			

a. Dependent Variable: CERQ\_Adaptive

b. Predictors: (Constant), DASS\_Total

c. Predictors: (Constant), DASS\_Total, IMP\_Dutch\_EAC, IMP\_Dutch\_LFA, IMP\_Dutch\_CC, IMP\_Dutch\_NJAPF, IMP\_Dutch\_ENRP, IMP\_Dutch\_EAS

		Coefficients <sup>a</sup>							
		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients		Correlations			
Model		B	Std. Error	Beta	t	Sig.	Zero-order	Partial	Part
1	(Constant)	60.691	2.755		22.029	.000			
	DASS_Total	-.229	.204	-.133	-1.121	.266	-.133	-.133	-.133
2	(Constant)	-.275	15.543		-.018	.986			
	DASS_Total	.123	.206	.072	.598	.552	-.133	.075	.060
	IMP_Dutch_LFA	-1.142	.608	-.228	-1.879	.065	.061	-.229	-.187
	IMP_Dutch_CC	1.532	.649	.312	2.360	.021	.493	.283	.235
	IMP_Dutch_EAC	-.021	1.023	-.002	-.020	.984	.229	-.003	-.002
	IMP_Dutch_NJAPF	.708	.406	.231	1.744	.086	.325	.213	.174
	IMP_Dutch_ENRP	-.539	.716	-.113	-.753	.454	.249	-.094	-.075
	IMP_Dutch_EAS	2.372	.898	.402	2.643	.010	.467	.314	.263

a. Dependent Variable: CERQ\_Adaptive

**Maladaptive cognitive emotion regulation (CERQ Maladaptive):**

Model Summary									
Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	R Square Change	F Change	df1	df2	Sig. F Change
1	.679 <sup>a</sup>	.461	.453	6.90643	.461	59.776	1	70	.000
2	.755 <sup>b</sup>	.570	.523	6.45008	.109	2.709	6	64	.021

a. Predictors: (Constant), DASS\_Total

b. Predictors: (Constant), DASS\_Total, IMP\_Dutch\_EAC, IMP\_Dutch\_LFA, IMP\_Dutch\_CC, IMP\_Dutch\_NJAPF, IMP\_Dutch\_ENRP, IMP\_Dutch\_EAS

ANOVA <sup>a</sup>						
Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	2851.265	1	2851.265	59.776	.000 <sup>b</sup>
	Residual	3338.917	70	47.699		
	Total	6190.183	71			
2	Regression	3527.558	7	503.937	12.113	.000 <sup>c</sup>
	Residual	2662.625	64	41.604		
	Total	6190.183	71			

a. Dependent Variable: CERQ\_Maladaptive

b. Predictors: (Constant), DASS\_Total

c. Predictors: (Constant), DASS\_Total, IMP\_Dutch\_EAC, IMP\_Dutch\_LFA, IMP\_Dutch\_CC, IMP\_Dutch\_NJAPF, IMP\_Dutch\_ENRP, IMP\_Dutch\_EAS

		Coefficients <sup>a</sup>							
		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients		Correlations			
Model		B	Std. Error	Beta	t	Sig.	Zero-order	Partial	Part
1	(Constant)	26.633	1.389		19.171	.000			
	DASS_Total	.795	.103	.679	7.732	.000	.679	.679	.679
2	(Constant)	30.132	8.701		3.463	.001			
	DASS_Total	.590	.115	.503	5.114	.000	.679	.539	.419
	IMP_Dutch_LFA	.063	.340	.019	.186	.853	-.177	.023	.015
	IMP_Dutch_CC	.920	.363	.275	2.533	.014	-.054	.302	.208
	IMP_Dutch_EAC	.155	.573	.027	.271	.787	.013	.034	.022
	IMP_Dutch_NJAPF	-.598	.227	-.287	-2.631	.011	-.561	-.312	-.216
	IMP_Dutch_ENRP	-.283	.401	-.087	-.707	.482	-.371	-.088	-.058

IMP_Dutch_EAS	-.766	.502	-.191	-1.525	.132	-.278	-.187	-.125
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a. Dependent Variable: CERQ\_Maladaptive

**Overprotection beliefs (PABUA Overprotective):**

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	R Square Change	Change Statistics			Sig. F Change
						F Change	df1	df2	
1	.155 <sup>a</sup>	.024	.008	8.63283	.024	1.533	1	62	.220
2	.259 <sup>b</sup>	.067	-.049	8.88123	.043	.430	6	56	.856

a. Predictors: (Constant), DASS\_Total

b. Predictors: (Constant), DASS\_Total, IMP\_Dutch\_EAC, IMP\_Dutch\_LFA, IMP\_Dutch\_CC, IMP\_Dutch\_NJAPF, IMP\_Dutch\_ENRP, IMP\_Dutch\_EAS

Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	114.260	1	114.260	1.533	.220 <sup>b</sup>
	Residual	4620.594	62	74.526		
	Total	4734.854	63			
2	Regression	317.787	7	45.398	.576	.773 <sup>c</sup>
	Residual	4417.066	56	78.876		
	Total	4734.854	63			

a. Dependent Variable: PAB\_Overprotection

b. Predictors: (Constant), DASS\_Total

c. Predictors: (Constant), DASS\_Total, IMP\_Dutch\_EAC, IMP\_Dutch\_LFA, IMP\_Dutch\_CC, IMP\_Dutch\_NJAPF, IMP\_Dutch\_ENRP, IMP\_Dutch\_EAS

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients		t	Sig.	Correlations		
		B	Std. Error	Beta				Zero-order	Partial	Part
1	(Constant)	26.984	1.843			14.642	.000			
	DASS_Total	.169	.136	.155		1.238	.220	.155	.155	.155
2	(Constant)	30.390	12.718			2.389	.020			
	DASS_Total	.065	.169	.059		.384	.702	.155	.051	.050
	IMP_Dutch_LFA	.496	.497	.157		.998	.323	.034	.132	.129
	IMP_Dutch_CC	.193	.531	.062		.364	.717	-.056	.049	.047
	IMP_Dutch_EAC	.059	.837	.011		.070	.944	-.018	.009	.009
	IMP_Dutch_NJAPF	-.296	.332	-.153		-.893	.376	-.201	-.118	-.115
	IMP_Dutch_ENRP	-.155	.586	-.051		-.264	.792	-.126	-.035	-.034
	IMP_Dutch_EAS	-.556	.734	-.149		-.757	.452	-.126	-.101	-.098

a. Dependent Variable: PAB\_Overprotection

**Accommodation (PAS Behaviour):**

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	R Square Change	Change Statistics			Sig. F Change
						F Change	df1	df2	
1	.289 <sup>a</sup>	.083	.039	2.71215	.083	1.865	2	41	.168
2	.542 <sup>b</sup>	.294	.133	2.57607	.211	1.741	6	35	.141

a. Predictors: (Constant), DASS\_Total, Length\_practice\_for\_corrs

b. Predictors: (Constant), DASS\_Total, Length\_practice\_for\_corrs, IMP\_Dutch\_EAC, IMP\_Dutch\_LFA, IMP\_Dutch\_CC, IMP\_Dutch\_NJAPF, IMP\_Dutch\_EAS, IMP\_Dutch\_ENRP

ANOVA <sup>a</sup>						
Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	27.436	2	13.718	1.865	.168 <sup>b</sup>
	Residual	301.585	41	7.356		
	Total	329.022	43			
2	Regression	96.757	8	12.095	1.823	.106 <sup>c</sup>
	Residual	232.265	35	6.636		
	Total	329.022	43			

a. Dependent Variable: PAS\_Behaviour

b. Predictors: (Constant), DASS\_Total, Length\_practice\_for\_corrs

c. Predictors: (Constant), DASS\_Total, Length\_practice\_for\_corrs, IMP\_Dutch\_EAC, IMP\_Dutch\_LFA, IMP\_Dutch\_CC, IMP\_Dutch\_NJAPF, IMP\_Dutch\_EAS, IMP\_Dutch\_ENRP

Coefficients <sup>a</sup>									
Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients		Sig.	Correlations		
		B	Std. Error	Beta	t		Zero-order	Partial	Part
1	(Constant)	4.146	.915		4.533	.000			
	Length_practice_for_corrs	-.955	.847	-.170	-1.128	.266	-.196	-.173	-.169
	DASS_Total	.074	.052	.213	1.415	.165	.234	.216	.212
2	(Constant)	3.820	4.521		.845	.404			
	Length_practice_for_corrs	-1.146	.880	-.204	-1.302	.201	-.196	-.215	-.185
	DASS_Total	.022	.059	.062	.364	.718	.234	.061	.052
	IMP_Dutch_LFA	.228	.176	.226	1.292	.205	-.064	.213	.184
	IMP_Dutch_CC	.313	.187	.316	1.677	.102	-.015	.273	.238
	IMP_Dutch_EAC	.236	.297	.137	.795	.432	-.021	.133	.113
	IMP_Dutch_NJAPF	-.037	.121	-.059	-.302	.765	-.285	-.051	-.043
	IMP_Dutch_ENRP	-.362	.213	-.375	-1.704	.097	-.354	-.277	-.242
	IMP_Dutch_EAS	-.429	.259	-.361	-1.653	.107	-.309	-.269	-.235

a. Dependent Variable: PAS\_Behaviour





# A Mindful Parenting Program for Parents Concerned About Child Internalizing Problems: a Randomized Controlled Feasibility Study

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## Abstract

**Objectives** This study sought to establish four aspects of feasibility for a mindful parenting program: demand for the program from parents with concerns regarding their child's internalizing problems, acceptability of the program to those parents, preliminary efficacy, and the likelihood of successful expansion of the program to the intended population.

**Methods** The study was a pilot, randomized controlled trial comparing a mindful parenting program to waitlist. Participants were parents ( $N = 25$ ) of children aged 3–18 years, with self-reported concerns regarding their child's internalizing problems, recruited from the community. Demand was assessed using recruitment and adherence rates. Acceptability was assessed using parent-reported usefulness. Preliminary efficacy was assessed using parent reports of child internalizing problems, mindful parenting, parenting stress, cognitive emotion regulation, parental experiential avoidance, and parent beliefs about child anxiety. Intervention group parents also provided weekly in-session data on coping in stressful parenting situations. The likelihood of successful expansion was assessed using qualitative feedback on whether and how the program had helped parents manage child internalizing problems, particularly anxiety.

**Results** Feasibility was established for the four aspects assessed. The program was well-attended and acceptable to parents. Moderate to large effects were found in favor of the intervention group for most parent and child outcomes. Weekly data showed improved coping in difficult parenting situations. Qualitative feedback suggested that parents believed that increased acceptance and empathy had helped them cope with child internalizing problems.

**Conclusions** Mindful parenting programs may assist parents of children with internalizing problems to manage parenting stress and emotionally regulate themselves, even in difficult parenting moments. They may also reduce child internalizing problems, through improved parental emotion regulation, and greater acceptance of and empathy for their child.

**Trial Registration** Australian Clinical Trials Registry, registration number ACTRN12620000690954

**Keywords** Mindful parenting · Child internalizing · Parenting stress · Experiential avoidance · Emotion regulation · Feasibility

Parenting stress occurs when a parent believes that the demands of parenting outweigh their current resources to manage those demands (Östberg et al., 2007). It is associated with a range of negative outcomes, including more emotional problems in parents (Skreden et al., 2012); more social, emotional, and behavioral problems in children (Anthony et al., 2005); and more negative parenting behaviors (Venta et al., 2016), which contribute to poorer outcomes for the child (Pinquart, 2017). While raising a

child is stressful for most parents at least some of the time, the parenting stress literature has focused upon parents of children with externalizing problems, such as rule-breaking, aggressive, or other disruptive behavior (Achenbach & Rescorla, 2001), given the strong link between parenting stress and such problems (Barroso et al., 2018). Sources of stress for these parents include child behavioral problems and parent perceptions regarding their child's emotional lability and negativity (Baker et al., 2003; Costa et al., 2017).

Despite there also being a moderately strong association between parenting stress and child internalizing problems (Barroso et al., 2018), such as symptoms of anxiety or depression (Achenbach & Rescorla, 2001), this connection with child internalizing has received less research attention

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(Rodriguez, 2011). The less overt nature of internalizing problems may mean the needs of the families managing these problems are more easily underestimated or overlooked (Clarke-Stewart et al., 2003; Rodriguez, 2011). However, internalizing disorders are amongst the most common types of mental health conditions in children (Polanczyk et al., 2015), with numerous negative outcomes for affected children (Swan & Kendall, 2016). Child internalizing problems also negatively impact families by adding to parenting stress, including by contributing to parental beliefs that the child has a difficult temperament (Fernandes et al., 2020), worries about the child's ability to cope, and disappointment about the child not meeting expectations (Costa et al., 2006). Further, as well as parenting stress being an outcome of child internalizing, longitudinal evidence shows parenting stress is a risk factor for later child internalizing problems (Stone et al., 2016). Parents of children with internalizing difficulties should therefore be supported to reduce or manage their stress levels for their own well-being, and to reduce the risk of contributing to their child's internalizing problems.

One factor that helps parents to cope better with stress is parental mindfulness (Campbell et al., 2017). Mindfulness in parenting involves a parent paying moment-to-moment, non-judgmental, non-reactive attention to their child (Kabat-Zinn & Kabat-Zinn, 1997), which helps them to regulate their emotional experiences as a parent and their behaviors with their child (Duncan et al., 2009). A more mindful parenting style can be developed through mindfulness training (Meppelink et al., 2016). Mindful parenting programs (MPPs) are typically based on mindfulness-based stress reduction (MBSR; Kabat-Zinn et al. 1992) and mindfulness-based cognitive therapy (Segal et al., 2013) programs, but concentrate on particular challenges faced by parents (Bögels et al., 2014). These include being aware and accepting of the “whole” child, rather than focusing on perceived weaknesses or problems, tolerating negative thoughts and emotions regarding the child, perspective-taking and empathizing with the child, and being compassionate towards the child and the self as a parent (Bögels & Restifo, 2013).

Numerous studies have investigated the benefits of MPPs over the past decade. A recent meta-analysis of these studies found that MPPs reduce parenting stress and are associated with reductions in children's internalizing and externalizing problems (Burgdorf et al., 2019). However, most clinical programs have been run for parents of children with a primary externalizing diagnosis (for example, Jones et al., 2018). Only one published study has catered specifically for parents of children with a primary internalizing diagnosis (Racey et al., 2017). As this study did not assess parenting stress, it is not known whether MPPs reduce parenting stress specifically for parents of children with primary internalizing problems. Further, although the adolescents in Racey et al. (2017) reported fewer internalizing symptoms after the

intervention, they attended a separate mindfulness course in parallel to the MPP attended by their parents, so it is not known whether their symptoms improved as a result of their own program or the MPP. Accordingly, with the exception of Racey et al., the published literature has assessed internalizing problems only as comorbid symptoms in groups of children where the majority of primary diagnoses were for externalizing disorders. More targeted research is needed to confirm whether MPPs reduce parenting stress and child internalizing problems in families whose primary concern is child internalizing.

Children with primary internalizing problems have a genetic and temperamental vulnerability to internalizing problems, which may be exacerbated by overprotective parenting (Edwards et al., 2010; Rapee, 2012). In contrast, children with comorbid internalizing problems tend to develop these as a result of their primary externalizing problems, for example when these lead to social rejection or academic problems (Willner et al., 2016). Given these different risk factors for primary and comorbid internalizing problems, MPPs could impact the internalizing problems of these two groups of children in different ways. However, the limited research regarding MPPs and child internalizing means that little is known about how mindful parenting might reduce child internalizing problems. According to Burgdorf et al.'s (2019) meta-analysis of MPPs, the majority of which related to children with primary externalizing disorders, reductions in comorbid internalizing problems were not predicted by reductions in parenting stress. Instead, Emerson et al. (2019) found they were partially explained by reductions in parental experimental avoidance, defined as a parent's difficulty experiencing their child's negative feelings and managing their own reactions to those negative feelings (Tiwari et al., 2008). Correlational data from community-recruited families has shown that mindful parenting is related to child internalizing problems and parental experiential avoidance, cognitive emotion regulation, and beliefs about child anxiety (Burgdorf & Szabó, 2021), which are each related to child internalizing symptoms (Drake & Ginsburg, 2012; Wald et al., 2018). Experimental research showing improvements in these parent variables following a MPP would provide further evidence of how more mindful parenting could explain reduced child internalizing in families of children with primary internalizing concerns.

As parent-only MPPs have not been studied specifically in families of children with internalizing problems, it is not known whether these programs will be viewed favorably by their parents. Parents of children who experience anxiety tend to be distressed by and avoidant of both their own and their child's negative emotion (Tiwari et al., 2008), and to believe that shielding their child from negative experiences and distress is beneficial (Kiel et al., 2019; Rousseau & Scharf, 2017). They may, therefore, not wish to change

any avoidant or (over)protective behavior associated with these beliefs by attending a MPP, which encourages parents to remain in contact with the negative emotions both of and relating to their child (Bögels & Restifo, 2013). Similarly, the tendency for parents of children suffering from depression to emotionally withdraw from their child (Yap et al., 2014) may limit parents' desire or motivation to engage in a treatment program which emphasizes emotional connection. Further, this study proposed to recruit parents from the community, since baseline parenting stress is the same for parents of children with a mental health diagnosis and help-seeking parents without a diagnosis (Potharst et al., 2018a). As parenting programs in non-clinical settings can have high attrition rates (Axford et al., 2012), there is also uncertainty about what proportion of enrolled parents would complete the program. Prior to running a full-scale study, it would be prudent to evaluate the feasibility of a MPP for parents recruited in the community, with concerns regarding their child's emotional well-being.

The objective of this study was therefore to investigate several aspects of the feasibility of a mindful parenting program for parents with concerns regarding their child's internalizing problems. Despite the uncertainty, we hypothesized that a mindful parenting program for parents with concerns regarding their child's internalizing problems would be feasible. Specifically, we expected that help-seeking parents would attend the program and find it acceptable. We also expected that the intervention group would report moderate improvements in parenting stress, parental experiential avoidance, cognitive emotion regulation and beliefs about child anxiety, small improvements in child internalizing problems, and that differences between the intervention and control groups would favor the intervention group. Last, we expected that parents would report that the program helped them manage child internalizing symptoms, including anxiety, through improved emotional awareness and acceptance.

## Method

### Participants

Participants were 25 parents who wished to take part in a pilot randomized controlled trial comparing an 8-week mindful parenting program to waitlist. The sample size was based on the recommendations made by Whitehead et al. (2016) for an 80% powered main trial with two-sided 5% significance, where the standardized effect sizes are expected to be small to medium. Individuals could be included in the study if they were a parent (or acting in the role of parent) with a child aged 3 to 18 years, whose primary self-reported concern regarding their child was the child's internalizing symptoms. Exclusion criteria were (1) parent's inadequate

mastery of the English language; (2) parent or child participating in another parenting course or psychological therapy for managing child or parent well-being; (3) parent having organic brain damage; (4) parent having current or historic psychotic or bipolar disorder; (5) parent having current or recent (within last year) substance dependence; (6) parent having significant interpersonal difficulties (such as anti-social behavior); (7) parent at current, moderate to high risk of self-harm or suicide; (8) current substantial risk of abuse of any child in the family; or (9) intellectual disability in the child regarding whom assistance was sought. Intervention group parents were significantly older ( $M = 42.45$  years,  $SD = 4.85$ ) than waitlist parents ( $M = 37.75$  years,  $SD = 4.67$ ) ( $t(21) = 2.37, p = .03$ ). There was no difference in the mean age of children of parents in the intervention ( $M = 6.27$  years,  $SD = 1.95$ ) and waitlist ( $M = 6.00$  years,  $SD = 3.13$ ) groups. Table 1 contains additional demographic information regarding the participants. There were no significant differences between the parent groups on these demographic variables, or on pre-program scores for any of the outcome variables.

### Procedures

The CONSORT 2010 statement: Extension to randomized pilot and feasibility trials (Eldridge et al., 2016) was used to guide the reporting of this trial. Study advertisements were distributed to potential participants in January 2020, either by email to parents who had previously asked to be notified by the University about mindfulness programs for parents, or on Facebook. The Facebook advertisement was displayed over a 10-day period, to individuals located within the metropolitan area of Sydney, Australia, and interested in the topic areas of "Motherhood", "Fatherhood", "Parenting", "Family", or "Parents". The advertisements directed potential participants to a registration of interest form on the data collection website Qualtrics, where they could provide contact details and access the participant information statement and consent form. Of the 125 individuals who registered their interest in participating, 56 were able to be contacted by telephone and assessed for eligibility. Of these individuals, 25 were eligible, able to attend the program on the scheduled dates, and provided consent to participate (see Fig. 1). To ensure allocation concealment during randomization, these 25 participants were randomly allocated on a 1:1 basis to the intervention ( $n = 12$ ) or waitlist control ( $n = 13$ ) groups using the website random.org.

The program delivered in this study was adapted from the 8-week  $\times$  3-hour mindful parenting group program developed for parents experiencing parenting stress by Bögels & Restifo (2013). The adapted program consisted of eight weekly 2-hour group sessions: (1) Automatic pilot, (2) Beginner's mind, (3) Reconnecting with the

**Table 1** Demographic characteristics of participants

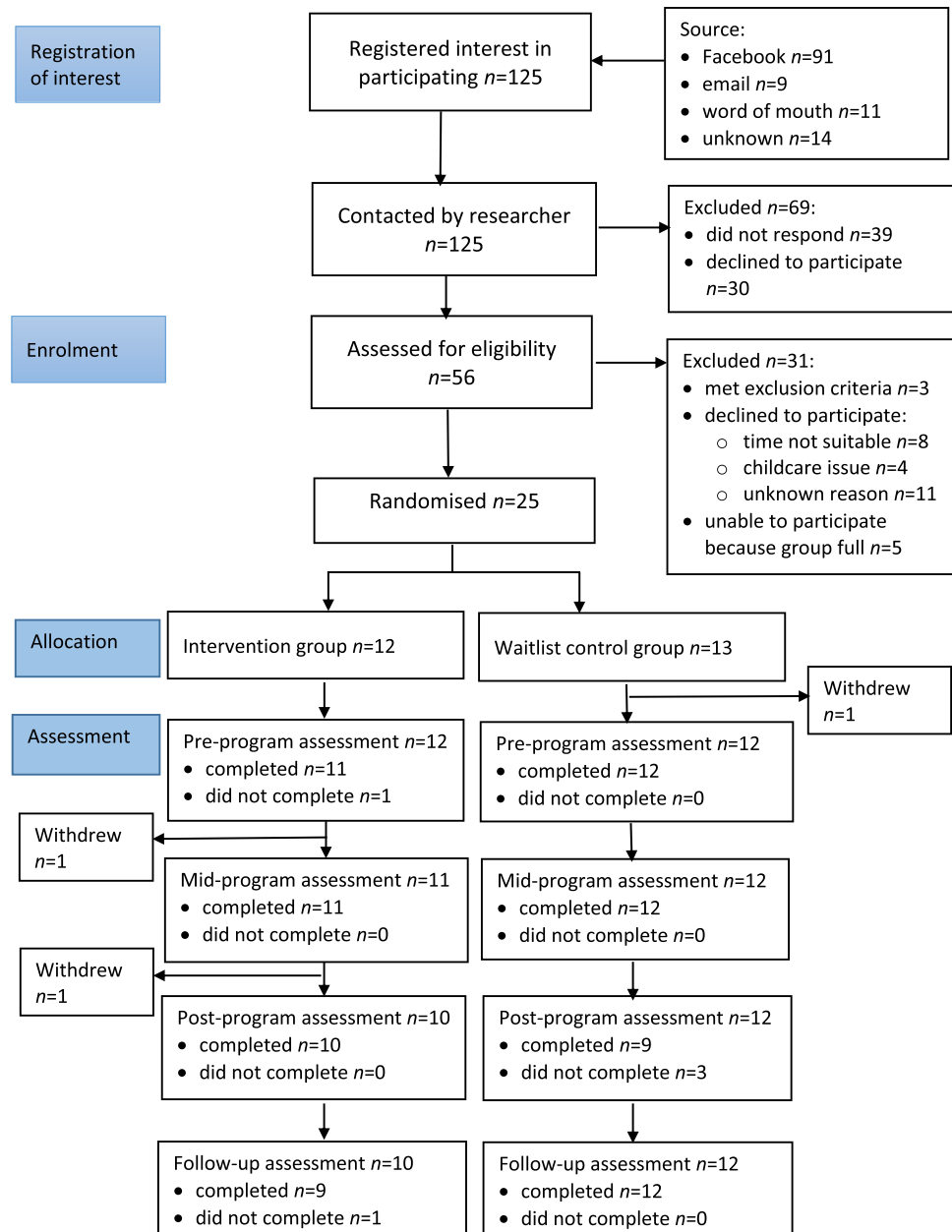
Characteristic	Intervention group ( <i>n</i> = 11)		Waitlist group ( <i>n</i> = 12)		Group difference $\chi^2$ ( <i>df</i> )
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	
Child gender					0.38 (1)
Female	6	54.5	5	41.7	
Male	5	45.5	7	58.3	
Parent relation to child					0.00 (1)
Mother	10	90.9	11	91.7	
Father	1	9.1	1	8.3	
Caregiver role					1.23 (2)
Primary carer	6	54.5	9	75.0	
Equal carer <sup>a</sup>	4	36.4	2	16.7	
Secondary carer	1	9.1	1	8.3	
No. of children in family					2.04 (2)
1	1	9.1	4	33.3	
2	7	63.6	6	50.0	
3	3	27.3	2	16.7	
Parent cultural identity					2.96 (3)
Australian	10	90.9	10	83.3	
UK	0	0	1	8.3	
Eastern European	0	0	1	8.3	
Middle Eastern	1	9.1	0	0	
Parent highest level of education					.01 (2)
Post-graduate or Bachelor degree	9	81.8	10	83.3	
Associate degree or vocational training	1	9.1	1	8.3	
Secondary school or other	1	9.1	1	8.3	
Parent previous mental health diagnosis					3.16 (1)
Yes	0	0	3	25.0	
No	11	100	9	75.0	
History of mindfulness practice					0.52 (1)
Yes	3	27.3	5	41.7	
No	8	72.7	7	58.3	
Length of mindfulness practice					.04 (1)
< 1 year	2	66.7	3	60.0	
≥ 1 year	1	33.3	2	40.0	
Frequency of mindfulness practice					.04 (1)
< monthly	2	66.7	3	60.0	
≥ monthly	1	33.3	2	40.0	

<sup>a</sup>Equal carer is a parent who reports sharing the care of their child approximately equally with another person

body, (4) Responding versus reacting, (5) Parenting patterns and schemas, (6) Conflict and parenting, (7) Love and limits, and (8) Are we there yet? A mindful path through parenting. Each session consisted of an overview of the session theme/s, group discussion of home practice exercises, formal meditation practices followed by a group inquiry regarding each practice, and mindfulness/visualization exercises and discussions related to the week's theme. The program was run at 6.00–8.00 p.m. on Tuesdays during school term, from February to April 2020.

The first five sessions were delivered face-to-face at The University of Sydney, and the remaining three sessions were conducted online using Zoom, due to the closure of the University campus during the COVID-19 pandemic. The program was offered to the control group after all data collection was completed. The program was facilitated by two of the authors, a registered clinical psychology registrar (VB) and a registered clinical psychologist (MS). Both authors have experience working with parents and in group therapy, have a personal mindfulness practice, and

**Fig. 1** Flow of participants from registration of interest to follow-up assessment



have completed mindful parenting teacher training with Professor Susan Bögels at the University of Amsterdam.

Some adaptations were made to the Bögels and Restifo (2013) program. Because the program was being run for parents concerned about their child's emotional well-being rather than behavioral problems, in exercises which asked parents to visualize a stressful parenting situation, we used examples such as a child with anxiety refusing to separate from a parent. The weekly session length was reduced from three to two hours, as parents were recruited from the community rather than treatment clinics. We did this by shortening several formal meditation practices, including body scans and sitting meditations, and omitting the yoga

practices. Facilitating the final three sessions of the program via Zoom also required some changes to program content and mode of delivery. These changes included omitting the walking meditations, using the Zoom "share screen" function as a whiteboard for parent input during group exercises, and the "breakout rooms" function for parents to work in pairs. For body scans and a standing meditation, some parents chose to turn off their camera during the practice. Apart from these changes, the online sessions were run as similarly as possible to the face-to-face sessions, including the presence of facilitators at all times. Parents were encouraged to act as if they were together in the same room with the facilitators and other group members. For example, parents were

asked to find a private space for the sessions, where they could participate in meditation exercises and group discussions free from interruptions from other family members.

## Measures

### Feasibility

Bowen et al. (2009) outlined eight potential areas of focus for feasibility studies. We used four of these areas to assess feasibility in this study: Demand, Acceptability, Limited-efficacy testing, and Expansion. Demand relates to the likely use of an intervention by the intended population. We assessed this for parents whose primary concern regarding their child was their internalizing symptoms, through (a) recruitment rates, calculated as the proportion of parents who enrolled in the study (i) after the initial contact from the researchers, and (ii) after registering their interest in participating; (b) attendance rate, being the average attendance rate of parents over 8 sessions; (c) completion rate, being the proportion of parents completing at least 6 of the 8 sessions; (d) withdrawal rate, or the proportion of parents who withdrew from the study after randomization but before the start of the program; and (e) attrition rate, being the proportion of parents who began the program but did not attend at least 4 sessions.

Acceptability refers to the reactions of the participants to an intervention. We assessed acceptability by measuring parent perceptions of program usefulness, including in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic, based on the parent feedback form in Bögels & Restifo (2013). Parents responded to the questions (a) “Which group format did you prefer? (*Face-to-face/Online*); (b) “To what extent did the COVID-19 pandemic affect your ability to benefit from the program?” where 1 = *Very positive impact* to 7 = *Very negative impact*; (c) “How important has the training been for you, overall?” on a scale of 1 to 10 (1 = *Not useful at all*, 10 = *Extremely useful*); (d) “Do you feel you got something of lasting value or importance as a result of doing this program?” (*yes/no*); and (e) “Would you recommend the program to friends or family members?” (*yes/no*).

Limited-efficacy testing refers to obtaining preliminary evidence of program effects with a small sample, in order to estimate sample and effect sizes for a full-scale trial. We obtained preliminary evidence of effects through parent self-reports on the outcome measures described below. Except where otherwise indicated, all self-report questionnaires were completed by parents online, through Qualtrics. The demographic and mindfulness practice information contained in Table 1 was collected from all parents one week prior to the program. The other questionnaires were completed by all parents one week prior to the program (pre-program), after the fourth session (mid-program), upon

completion (post-program), and two months after completion (follow-up). The data on weekly coping with parenting stress was collected from intervention group parents weekly, in-session.

Expansion relates to the likelihood of successfully using an existing intervention with a new population or in a different setting. We did this by collecting qualitative feedback from parents regarding whether and how the program had helped them.

### Mindful Parenting

The Interpersonal Mindfulness in Parenting Scale (IMP; Duncan, 2007, Duncan et al., 2009) assesses mindful parenting. The items are rated using a 5-point Likert scale, ranging from 1 = *Never True* to 5 = *Always True*. Fourteen items (1, 5, 9–15, 17, 19, 23, 26, 29) are reverse-coded, and higher scores indicate more mindful parenting. We used the 29-item, six-factor version of the IMP, which has the subscales Listening with Full Attention (LFA; “I rush through activities with my child without really being attentive to him/her”), Compassion for the Child (CC; “I am kind to my child when he/she is upset”), Non-judgmental Acceptance of Parental Functioning (NJAPF; “I tend to be hard on myself when I make mistakes as a parent”), Emotional Awareness of the Child (EAC; “It is hard for me to tell what my child is feeling”), Emotional Awareness of Self (EAS; “When I’m upset with my child, I notice how I am feeling before I take action”), and Emotional Non-reactivity in Parenting (ENRP; “I often react too quickly to what my child says or does”) (Burgdorf & Szabó, 2021; de Bruin et al., 2014). A total score is calculated by summing all items. The IMP has demonstrated good convergent and divergent validity (Burgdorf & Szabó, 2021; de Bruin et al., 2014). Pre-program internal consistency (Cronbach’s alpha) and reliability (McDonald’s omega; see Hayes & Coutts, 2020 and McDonald, 1999) in the current sample were  $\alpha = .72$ ,  $\omega = .72$  for LFA;  $\alpha = .90$ ,  $\omega = .91$  for CC;  $\alpha = .85$ ,  $\omega = .86$  for NJAPF;  $\alpha = .82$ ,  $\omega = .82$  for EAC;  $\alpha = .81$ ,  $\omega = .83$  for EAS;  $\alpha = .80$ ,  $\omega = .83$  for ENRP; and  $\alpha = .93$ ,  $\omega = .92$  for IMP Total. Post-program internal consistency was  $\alpha = .83$ ,  $\omega = .86$  for LFA;  $\alpha = .90$ ,  $\omega = .90$  for CC;  $\alpha = .91$ ,  $\omega = .91$  for NJAPF;  $\alpha = .69$ ,  $\omega = .74$  for EAC;  $\alpha = .93$ ,  $\omega = .93$  for EAS;  $\alpha = .91$ ,  $\omega = .91$  for ENRP; and  $\alpha = .95$ ,  $\omega = .95$  for IMP Total.

### Parenting Stress

The 18-item Parental Stress Scale (PSS; Berry & Jones, 1995) measures stress associated with the parenting role, for example “I feel overwhelmed by the responsibility of being a parent”. The items are rated on a 5-point scale, going from 1 = *Strongly disagree* to 5 = *Strongly agree*. Items 1, 2, 5–8, 17, and 18 are reverse-scored, with a



higher score indicating more parenting-related stress. Berry & Jones (1995) reported good convergent and discriminant validity for the PSS, and high internal consistency. In this study, pre-program  $\alpha = .74$  and  $\omega = .67$  and post-program  $\alpha = .78$  and  $\omega = .69$ .

### Cognitive Emotion Regulation

The Cognitive Emotion Regulation Questionnaire – Short Form (CERQ; Garnefski & Kraaij, 2006) contains 18 items measuring the cognitive emotion regulation strategies that an individual tends to use in negative situations. Responses are given on a 5-point scale ranging from 1 = (*Almost*) never to 5 = (*Almost*) always. The CERQ contains five subscales (Acceptance, Positive Refocusing, Refocus on Planning, Putting into Perspective, Positive Reappraisal) that can be combined into an Adaptive scale, measuring generally helpful strategies, for example “I think about how to change the situation”. It also contains four subscales (Self-blame, Other-blame, Rumination, Catastrophizing) that can be combined into a Maladaptive scale, measuring generally unhelpful strategies, for example “I think that basically the cause must lie within myself”. A higher scale score indicates more frequent use of the strategies in that scale. The short form CERQ has demonstrated acceptable validity and internal consistency (Garnefski & Kraaij, 2006). In this study, however, items 22 and 27 from the CERQ Adaptive scale had very low item-total correlations (.07 and  $-.07$ , respectively), so were excluded from the scale. In this study, for the shortened Adaptive scale,  $\alpha = .74$  and  $\omega = .74$  pre-program and  $\alpha = .85$ ,  $\omega = .78$  post-program. For the Maladaptive scale,  $\alpha = .83$ ,  $\omega = .85$  pre-program and  $\alpha = .65$ ,  $\omega = .66$  post-program.

### Parental Experiential Avoidance

The Parental Acceptance and Action Questionnaire (PAAQ; Cheron et al., 2009) measures experiential avoidance in parenting, being a parent’s unwillingness to witness their child’s negative emotion and their inability to manage their own reactions to those negative feelings, for example “I try hard to avoid having my child feel depressed or anxious”. There are 15 items rated on a 7-point scale from 1 = *Never true* to 7 = *Always true*. Items 1, 5–7, 10, and 11 are reverse-scored and higher scores indicate more experiential avoidance. The items are summed to create a total score. Cheron et al. (2009) have reported the PAAQ’s concurrent validity and adequate internal consistency. In this study, pre-program  $\alpha = .80$ ,  $\omega = .79$ , and post-program  $\alpha = .85$ ,  $\omega = .84$ .

### Parent Beliefs Regarding Child Anxiety

The Parental Attitudes, Beliefs and Understanding about Anxiety Scale (PABUA; Wolk et al., 2016) measures a parent’s beliefs and attitudes about their child’s anxiety, with three scales: Overprotection, Approach, and Distress. Wolk et al. (2016) reported the PABUA to have adequate to good internal consistency and good convergent and divergent validity, but in this study the Approach and Distress scales were excluded from analyses due to poor internal consistency and reliability (Approach:  $\alpha = .46$ ,  $\omega = .59$  pre-program and  $\alpha = .49$ ,  $\omega = .72$  post-program; Distress:  $\alpha = .54$ ,  $\omega = .54$  pre-program and  $\alpha = .56$ ,  $\omega = .60$  post-program). We therefore used only the Overprotection scale, which measures parent beliefs about the need to protect their child from anxiety. Pre-program  $\alpha = .79$ ,  $\omega = .81$  and post-program  $\alpha = .77$ ,  $\omega = .75$ . The 11 items in the Overprotection scale, for example “It is important that I protect my child from feeling anxious”, are answered on a 5-point scale, from 1 = *Strongly disagree* to 5 = *Strongly agree*, with higher scores indicating less helpful beliefs about anxiety.

### Child Internalizing Symptoms

We used the parent report versions of the Child Behavior Checklist (CBCL; Achenbach & Rescorla, 2000, 2001) for preschool-aged children (3–5 years) and school-aged children (6–18 years), to assess child internalizing, with the broadband Internalizing Problems Scale (33 items, for example “Unhappy, sad or depressed” and “Too fearful or anxious”). The items have a 3-point response scale, where 0 = *Not true (as far as you know)*, 1 = *Somewhat or sometimes true*, and 2 = *Very true or often true*. A higher score indicates more problems. The CBCL has strong convergent and discriminant validity and internal consistency (Achenbach & Rescorla, 2000, 2001). In this sample, the Internalizing scale had pre-program Cronbach’s alphas of .83 (school-age) and .84 (preschool-age) and post-program alphas of .85 (school-age) and .63 (preschool-age). Reliability could not be calculated using McDonald’s omega due to some items having zero variance. This is likely to be due to the restricted range of symptom severity amongst children of community-recruited families.

### Weekly Coping with Parenting Stress

To investigate whether the intervention group parents were benefitting from the program at specific moments of parenting stress, not just at a general trait level, we assessed the intensity of parenting stress, and various aspects of parents’ mindfulness, weekly throughout the program in relation to specific, stressful parenting situations. At the beginning of each of the eight sessions, intervention group parents were

guided to visualize a stressful or difficult situation that they had experienced in the past week with or relating to their child. They were encouraged to imagine themselves back in that situation, and to recall as vividly as possible what they were thinking and feeling at the time. In-session, immediately following that guided visualization, we assessed intensity of parenting stress (“During this difficult situation regarding your child, how intensely did you feel stressed (or overwhelmed or unable to cope)?” on a scale of 1 = *Not at all* to 7 = *Extremely intensely*). In relation to parents’ experiences during that difficult situation, we assessed (1) the ability to decenter from thoughts and emotions (“I experienced my thoughts and/or feelings as events in my mind, rather than as reflections of reality”), (2) experiential avoidance (“I wished I did not have to deal with what was happening” and “It was unpleasant or uncomfortable to experience my own emotions, and/or watch my child’s emotions”), and (3) self-regulation (“I paused to notice how I was feeling about the situation, before I did anything else”). These statements were rated on a scale of 1 = *Not at all true* to 7 = *Extremely true*. For the 5 face-to-face sessions, these assessments were completed on paper by parents individually, without discussion, with a facilitator collecting the questionnaires prior to the rest of the session proceeding. For the 3 Zoom sessions, parents received a personal link to the questionnaire on Zoom, and submitted their answers online prior to the rest of the session proceeding.

### Qualitative Assessment of Pathways from Mindful Parenting to Child Internalizing

After program completion, the parents were asked the following questions online, through Qualtrics, about whether and how they believed the program had helped them as parents, including in relation to any perceived child anxiety: (1) Has your relationship with your emotions changed? If yes, how? (2) Did the program change the way you experience your child? If yes, how has this changed? (3) Do you think mindfulness can help you cope with your child’s anxiety? If yes, how do you think it will help? (4) Did the mindful parenting program change the way you view your child’s anxiety? If yes, how did this change?

The initial questions were kept short and closed (*yes/no*), and were then immediately followed by a broad, open question (*If yes, how...?*). This technique is recommended for the online collection of qualitative data, in order to sufficiently direct participants’ attention to the issues the researcher wishes them to consider, while providing participants the freedom to explain what their own thoughts or experiences were regarding those issues (Braun et al., 2020). The questions directed parents’ attention to whether they changed their relationship with their own and their child’s emotions, and whether they believed an aspect of mindfulness was

behind this change, because we were interested to know whether the beliefs that parents expressed about these issues converged with any changes under the self-report measures, in particular the IMP.

### Data Analyses

To examine within- and between-group differences between pre-program scores, and mid-program, post-program, and 2-month follow-up scores, we used Microsoft Excel (2003) to calculate Cohen’s *d* standardized mean difference effect sizes. For within-group analyses, we used the difference between time 1 and 2 means divided by the standard deviation within group and assumed a correlation of  $r = 0.7$  to calculate the standard deviation within group (for details, see Borenstein et al., 2009). For the between-group analyses, although there were no significant differences between groups on pre-program outcome scores, this may have been partly due to the low numbers in each group. In order to account for any pre-program differences between groups, we therefore used the difference between the treatment and control group change scores, divided by the pooled pre-program standard deviations (for details, see Morris, 2008). An effect size of 0.2 represents a small effect, 0.5 a moderate effect, and 0.8 a large effect (Cohen, 1988). In line with CONSORT guidelines for reporting results of pilot trials that are not powered to test effectiveness, we did not test for statistical significance of these within- or between-group changes (Eldridge et al., 2016).

For the intervention group’s weekly coping data, we conducted repeated-measures ANOVAs using IBM SPSS Statistics for Windows (version 26), to examine the pattern of change in that data across the 8-week program. As there were numerous trends in the data that could have been reported, we have reported only the largest of the trends that reached statistical significance. We also conducted reliable change analyses of self-report outcomes for intervention group parents, using Microsoft Excel (2003). These analyses are suitable for small samples (Zahra & Hedge, 2010) and indicate whether an individual participant’s change is clinically significant, or greater than could occur due to measurement error. Reliable change occurs when the difference between a participant’s pre- and post-program scores, divided by the standard error of the difference, is greater than 1.96 (Jacobson & Truax, 1991). The standard error of the difference has been calculated using the pre-program Cronbach’s alpha, and the standard deviation of the intervention group for each measure (for details, see Busch et al., 2011).

For the qualitative investigation of possible pathways between mindful parenting and child internalizing, we used thematic analysis (Braun & Clarke, 2006) to examine parent feedback regarding changes in parenting. Following



the process set out by Braun & Clarke (2006), one author (VB) and a doctoral level clinical psychology post-graduate student read the parent responses to familiarize themselves with the data, then independently coded the data by hand, based on its surface or apparent meaning (Braun & Clarke, 2006), and identified potential themes amongst the coded data. Next, these two researchers refined the list of themes by reviewing the potential themes together, checking that the individual pieces of coded data fit with the proposed themes and agreeing a final list of themes. The themes were then defined by VB and are reported in this paper.

## Results

### Demand

Figure 1 shows the flow of participants through the study, including registrations of interest, enrolment, allocation to groups, and measurement points. Table 2 shows participant recruitment rates by initial contact and number of registrations. Of the individuals initially contacted via Facebook, and who went on to register their interest in participating in the study, 22.0% were enrolled in the study. Overall, 2.1% of individuals contacted via Facebook enrolled in the study. For those individuals contacted by email who subsequently registered their interest in participating, 22.2% enrolled. Overall, we enrolled 3.4% of the individuals contacted by email.

The average attendance rate of intervention group parents ( $n = 12$ ) was six out of eight sessions (75%). Two parents were unable to continue their attendance after the fourth session for reasons related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Nine of the 12 parents attended at least six sessions, giving a completion rate of 75%. One parent from each of the intervention and waitlist ( $n = 13$ ) groups withdrew from the study after randomization but before the intervention began, giving a withdrawal rate of 8%. Two of the 12 intervention group parents completed less than four sessions, giving an attrition rate of 16.7%.

### Acceptability

In relation to perceived usefulness of the program and the impact of COVID-19, 100% of parents reported that they preferred face-to-face over online groups. Twenty percent of parents reported that the pandemic had a very positive impact on their ability to benefit from the program, while 60% said it had a minor negative impact and 20% said it had a moderate negative impact. Despite the majority of parents reporting that the pandemic negatively affected their ability to benefit from the program, parents reported that the program had been important for them, with 20% rating the program an 8, 40% rating it a 9, and 40% rating it a 10, on a scale of 1 = *Not useful at all*, 10 = *Extremely useful*. In addition, 100% of parents reported that they believed they had got something of lasting value or importance as a result of doing the program, and 100% of parents reported that they would recommend the program to family or friends.

### Limited-Efficacy Testing

The means and standard deviations for each outcome at each measurement point are shown in Table 3, for both intervention and waitlist groups. Table 4 shows the within- and between-group Cohen's  $d$  effect sizes for the changes in those outcomes. Between-group differences all favored the intervention group. At program completion (T3), differences between the intervention and waitlist control groups were moderate to large, except for CERQ Adaptive, where the difference was small, and CBCL Pre-school Internalizing, which was negligible. At follow-up (T4), the differences remained moderate to large, except for CBCL Pre-school Internalizing and IMP Compassion for the Child, where the differences were negligible, and CERQ Adaptive, where the differences were small.

In relation to within-group changes, the intervention group outcomes generally improved from pre- to mid-program (T1-T2) and from mid- to post-program (T2-T3). At program completion (T1-T3), the intervention group showed moderate to large improvements from pre-program on all

**Table 2** Participant recruitment rates

Location of study advertisement	Initial contacts made <sup>a</sup> ( $n$ )	Registrations of interest ( $n$ )	Study enrolments ( $n$ )	Recruitment rate by contact <sup>b</sup>	Recruitment rate by registration <sup>c</sup>
Facebook	965	91	20	2.1%	22.0%
Email	58	9	2	3.4%	22.2%
Other <sup>d</sup>	-	25	3	-	12.0%
Total	1023	125	25	2.4%	20.0%

<sup>a</sup>For email = number of study advertisement emails sent; for Facebook = number of engagements by Facebook users with the post advertising the study; <sup>b</sup>enrolments as a percentage of initial contacts; <sup>c</sup>enrolments as a percentage of registrations of interest; <sup>d</sup>parents who heard about the study through word-of-mouth and independently approached the researchers; as the researchers did not initiate contact with these parents, no recruitment rate by contact is available for this category

**Table 3** Means and standard deviations for child and parent outcomes, for intervention and waitlist control groups

	Pre-program (T1)			Mid-program (T2)			Post-program (T3)			Follow-up (T4)		
	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>n</i>
<b>IMP Total</b>												
Intervention	93.91	12.28	11	101.45	10.70	11	106.40	11.23	10	108.78	13.99	9
Waitlist	93.83	15.04	12	96.92	17.98	12	91.67	16.82	9	96.83	15.01	12
<b>IMP LFA</b>												
Intervention	15.55	2.25	11	16.82	1.72	11	17.50	2.01	10	18.33	2.24	9
Waitlist	15.08	2.11	12	16.00	3.10	12	14.67	2.12	9	15.33	2.84	12
<b>IMP CC</b>												
Intervention	23.91	4.28	11	24.82	3.06	11	25.40	3.92	10	25.44	4.59	9
Waitlist	23.58	3.55	12	23.58	3.45	12	22.78	2.91	9	24.92	2.87	12
<b>IMP NJAPF</b>												
Intervention	17.18	4.75	11	18.55	4.39	11	20.50	3.24	10	21.56	4.10	9
Waitlist	17.33	4.19	12	17.33	5.05	12	15.78	5.74	9	17.17	4.22	12
<b>IMP EAC</b>												
Intervention	10.45	1.29	11	10.91	1.22	11	11.70	1.06	10	11.78	1.86	9
Waitlist	11.50	2.07	12	11.58	2.35	12	12.00	1.41	9	11.50	1.93	12
<b>IMP EAS</b>												
Intervention	11.45	1.69	11	13.73	2.00	11	14.10	1.79	10	13.78	2.44	9
Waitlist	11.58	3.06	12	12.83	3.07	12	11.89	4.88	9	12.58	3.80	12
<b>IMP ENRP</b>												
Intervention	15.36	2.66	11	16.64	3.11	11	17.20	2.62	10	17.89	3.14	9
Waitlist	14.75	3.96	12	15.58	4.78	12	14.56	4.59	9	15.33	4.05	12
<b>PSS</b>												
Intervention	44.45	5.05	11	41.18	5.49	11	37.30	6.58	10	34.00	4.97	9
Waitlist	44.25	7.81	12	44.25	8.78	12	44.67	3.97	9	43.17	9.08	12
<b>CERQ Adaptive</b>												
Intervention	22.45	5.32	11	22.09	4.66	11	23.30	7.38	10	25.00	6.25	9
Waitlist	21.75	4.35	12	22.17	3.21	12	22.00	2.12	9	23.58	4.58	12
<b>CERQ Maladaptive</b>												
Intervention	20.45	6.62	11	17.45	3.75	11	17.10	3.07	10	16.44	1.94	9
Waitlist	18.58	2.87	12	19.33	3.39	12	18.33	4.50	9	18.08	3.29	12
<b>PAAQ Total</b>												
Intervention	57.18	10.00	11	48.45	9.84	11	45.80	11.15	10	45.22	8.38	9
Waitlist	54.42	12.44	12	54.42	12.77	12	57.44	9.19	9	52.42	11.93	12
<b>PABUA Overprotection</b>												
Intervention	29.18	7.80	11	24.64	6.92	11	25.70	6.18	10	25.44	9.49	9
Waitlist	27.17	5.22	12	26.50	5.92	12	26.44	5.90	9	27.33	4.79	12
<b>CBCL School Internalizing</b>												
Intervention	14.63	7.73	8	10.63	4.57	8	11.86	3.89	7	9.50	4.18	6
Waitlist	11.17	5.08	6	10.60	7.23	5	15.50	10.75	4	15.20	13.55	5
<b>CBCL Preschool Internalizing</b>												
Intervention	15.67	6.66	3	17.33	6.66	3	15.33	8.34	3	15.00	4.58	3
Waitlist	16.33	8.59	6	14.29	8.50	7	15.60	2.70	5	16.00	9.61	7

*IMP Total* is Interpersonal Mindfulness in Parenting (IMP) Total Scale; *IMP LFA* is IMP Listening with Full Attention Scale; *IMP CC* is IMP Compassion for the Child Scale; *IMP NJAPF* is IMP Non-judgmental Acceptance of Parental Functioning Scale; *IMP EAC* is IMP Emotional Awareness of the Child Scale; *IMP EAS* is IMP Emotional Awareness of the Self Scale; *IMP ENRP* is IMP Emotional Non-reactivity in Parenting Scale; *PSS* is Parental Stress Scale; *CERQ Adaptive* is Adaptive Scale, Cognitive Emotion Regulation Questionnaire – Short Form (CERQ); *CERQ Maladaptive* is Maladaptive Scale, CERQ; *PAAQ Total* is Total Scale, Parental Acceptance and Action Questionnaire; *PABUA Overprotection* is Overprotection Scale, Parental Attitudes, Beliefs and Understanding about Anxiety Scale; *CBCL School Internalizing* is Internalizing Scale, Child Behavior Checklist (CBCL) 6–18 years; *CBCL Preschool Internalizing* is Internalizing Scale, CBCL 3–5 years

**Table 4** Cohen's *d* within- and between-group effect sizes for child and parent outcomes

Outcomes	Within-group effects <sup>a</sup>					Between-group effects <sup>b</sup>		
	T1-T2	T2-T3	T3-T4	T1-T3	T1-T4	T1	T3	T4
IMP Total	0.84	0.48	0.35	0.96	1.15	0.01	1.02	0.83
IMP LFA	0.64	0.26	0.54	0.67	0.82	0.22	1.04	1.12
IMP CC	0.28	0.25	0.01	0.48	0.48	0.08	0.56	0.05
IMP NJAPF	0.39	0.41	0.28	0.65	0.98	-0.03	1.05	0.98
IMP EAC	0.31	0.50	0.05	0.77	0.78	-0.60	0.42	0.74
IMP EAS	0.86	0.15	-0.15	0.94	0.90	-0.05	0.90	0.51
IMP ENRP	0.60	0.89	0.28	0.67	0.93	0.18	0.58	0.52
PSS	0.57	0.56	0.43	0.89	1.18	0.03	1.10	1.36
CERQ Adaptive	-0.07	0.19	0.21	0.16	0.31	0.19	0.12	0.14
CERQ Maladaptive	0.47	0.09	0.20	0.47	0.55	-0.37	0.60	0.67
PAAQ Total	0.76	0.31	0.07	0.77	0.86	-0.24	1.22	0.85
PABUA Overprotection	0.83	-0.18	0.04	0.43	0.42	-0.31	0.40	0.57
CBCL School Internalizing	0.55	-0.29	0.39	0.26	0.40	-0.51	0.98	1.27
CBCL Preschool Internalizing	-0.27	0.25	0.03	0.03	0.19	0.08	0.04	0.04

<sup>a</sup>Within-group, a negative effect size indicates a deterioration in the outcome; <sup>b</sup>between-group, a negative effect size indicates that the effect favors the waitlist control group; *T1* pre-program; *T2* mid-program; *T3* post-program; *T4* 2-month follow-up; *IMP Total* is Interpersonal Mindfulness in Parenting (IMP) Total Scale; *IMP LFA* is IMP Listening with Full Attention Scale; *IMP CC* is IMP Compassion for the Child Scale; *IMP NJAPF* is IMP Non-judgmental Acceptance of Parental Functioning Scale; *IMP EAC* is IMP Emotional Awareness of the Child Scale; *IMP EAS* is IMP Emotional Awareness of the Self Scale; *IMP ENRP* is IMP Emotional Non-reactivity in Parenting Scale; *PSS* is Parental Stress Scale; *CERQ Adaptive* is Adaptive Scale, Cognitive Emotion Regulation Questionnaire – Short Form (CERQ); *CERQ Maladaptive* is Maladaptive Scale, CERQ; *PAAQ Total* is Total Scale, Parental Acceptance and Action Questionnaire; *PABUA Overprotection* is Overprotection Scale, Parental Attitudes, Beliefs and Understanding about Anxiety scale; *CBCL School Internalizing* is Internalizing Scale, Child Behavior Checklist (CBCL) 6–18 years; *CBCL Preschool Internalizing* is Internalizing Scale, CBCL 3–5 years

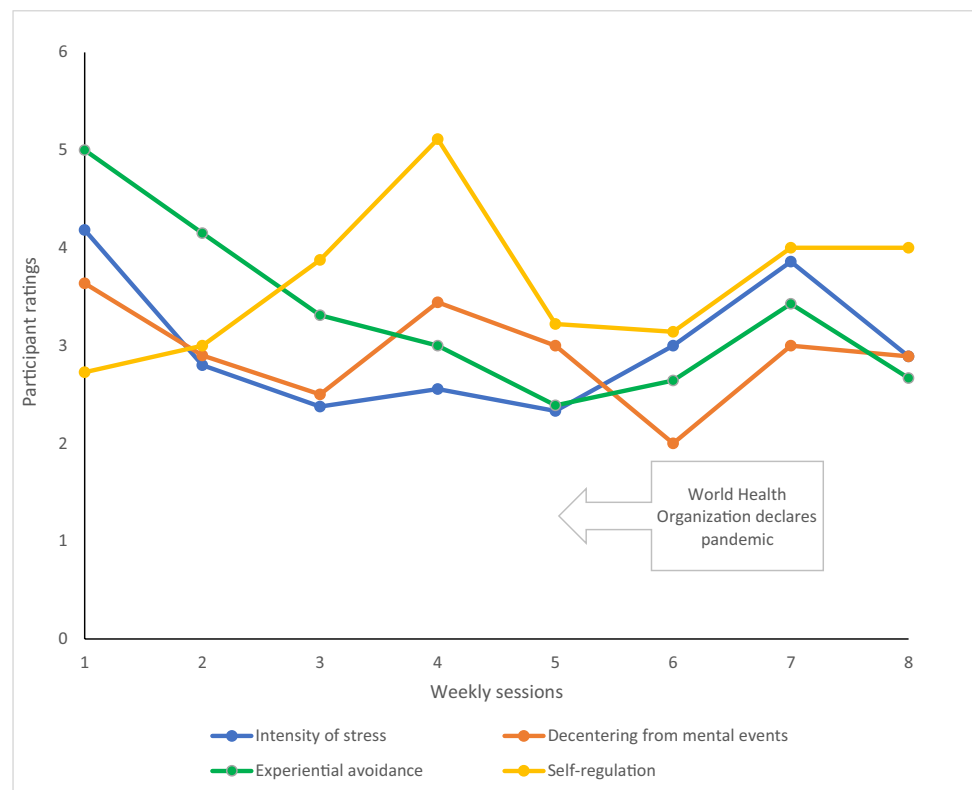
outcomes except CBCL Pre-school Internalizing, which showed negligible change, and CBCL School Internalizing and CERQ Adaptive, which both showed small improvements. Small to moderate improvements then continued to be made on most outcomes between program completion and 2-month follow-up (T3-T4), such that at follow-up (T1-T4), the improvements from pre-program remained moderate to large, except for CBCL Pre-school Internalizing and CERQ Adaptive, which were small.

Figure 2 shows the pattern of weekly change in intensity of stress, experiential avoidance, self-regulation, and decentering from mental events, for specific moments of parenting stress experienced by parents. Intensity of stress fell from weeks 1 ( $M = 4.18$ ,  $SD = 1.40$ ) to 8 ( $M = 2.89$ ,  $SD = 1.22$ ) in a strong cubic pattern ( $p < .001$ ,  $\eta_p^2 = .80$ ). In those stressful situations, experiential avoidance also fell (week 1  $M = 5.00$ ,  $SD = 1.10$ ; week 8  $M = 2.67$ ,  $SD = 1.02$ ) in a strong quadratic ( $p < .001$ ,  $\eta_p^2 = .78$ ) manner, while self-regulation increased (week 1  $M = 2.73$ ,  $SD = 1.62$ ; week 8  $M = 4.00$ ,  $SD = 1.34$ ) in a strong cubic ( $p = .02$ ,  $\eta_p^2 = .41$ ) manner. However, parents' ability to decenter from mental events deteriorated from week 1 ( $M = 3.64$ ,  $SD = 1.36$ ) to week 8 ( $M = 2.89$ ,  $SD = 1.30$ ), with no particular pattern evident in this deterioration (all  $ps > .05$ ). The

patterns indicate that over the course of the program, parents experienced improvements in intensity of stress, experiential avoidance, and self-regulation, albeit with some deterioration in the week leading up to and immediately after the declaration of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Based on the reliable change analyses, Table 5 shows the proportions of intervention group participants who reliably improved, improved, did not change, deteriorated, and reliably deteriorated, on each outcome. Post-program, reliable improvements were seen in 20% of participants on the Parenting Stress Scale, 50% or more of participants on the IMP Total and Emotional Awareness of Self, and PAAQ Total scales, and in 10–40% of participants on the remaining seven parent outcomes listed in Table 5. At follow-up, the proportions were similar, with reliable improvements in 55% or more of participants on the Parenting Stress Scale, IMP Total and Emotional Non-reactivity in Parenting, and PAAQ Total, and in 11–33% of participants on the remaining eight outcomes. Reliable deterioration was seen in one participant at post-program, for PAAQ Total, and by that same participant and one other at follow-up, for PAAQ Total and CERQ Adaptive. For child outcomes post-program, one of seven school-aged children (14%) and one of three preschool-aged children (33%) showed reliable improvement in

**Fig. 2** Participant change in intensity of stress and mindfulness, in stressful parenting situations. *Note.* Lower scores represent less intense stress and experiential avoidance, but poorer self-regulation and decentering



internalizing symptoms. At follow-up, two of six school-age children (33%) and none of three preschool-aged children showed reliable improvements.

## Expansion

Ten of the 11 intervention group parents provided post-program feedback regarding whether and how their parenting changed after the program, including in relation to perceived child anxiety. Six themes were identified in this feedback: present-moment awareness, intensity of emotional experience, acceptance, self-regulation, empathy, and self-compassion. Table 6 describes these themes and gives examples illustrating each one.

## Discussion

This study investigated the feasibility of a mindful parenting program for parents concerned about their child's internalizing problems. We explored demand for the program success by measuring recruitment, attendance, completion and attrition rates, and acceptability of the program by obtaining feedback on usefulness. To explore ways that mindful parenting might reduce child internalizing, we sought estimates of likely effect sizes in a future definitive trial of the program, for changes in child internalizing problems, mindful

parenting, parenting stress, parental experiential avoidance, cognitive emotion regulation, and beliefs about child anxiety. We also used qualitative feedback from parents to explore whether and how mindful parenting might help them cope with child internalizing problems, particularly anxiety.

As hypothesized, there is demand for the program from parents concerned about their child's internalizing symptoms. The recruitment rates were 2.1% (by Facebook advertisement) and 3.4% (by email). While low, these rates compare favorably to the mean rate of 7% reported in a review of studies using Facebook to recruit for health research (Whitaker et al., 2017). The great majority of the reviewed studies involved only online surveys, whereas this study involved attending a 16-hour program in addition to the collection of data at four points over a four-month period. The attendance and completion rates in this study were both 75%. This rate is acceptable compared to rates reported by other mindful parenting intervention studies, for example, 50% attended at least 4 of 8 sessions in Bögels et al. (2008), 74% attended at least 4 of 8 sessions in Mann et al. (2016), and 84% completed at least 6 of 8 sessions in Racey et al. (2017). While the completion rate was lower than that in Racey et al., this was at least partly attributable to the declaration of the COVID-19 pandemic, which prevented two parents (16.7% of the group) from attending after the fifth session. Acceptability is indicated by parent-reported usefulness of the program. Despite most parents believing the

**Table 5** Reliability of change on each outcome in intervention group participants, from pre- to post-program, and pre-program to follow-up

Outcomes	Reliable improvement <sup>a</sup>			Improvement <sup>b</sup>			No change <sup>c</sup>			Deterioration <sup>d</sup>			Reliable deterioration <sup>e</sup>			
	T1-T3	T1-T4		T1-T3	T1-T4		T1-T3	T1-T4		T1-T3	T1-T4		T1-T3	T1-T4		
	n/n <sup>f</sup>	%	n/n	%	n/n	%	n/n	%	n/n	%	n/n	%	n/n	%	n/n	%
IMP Total	7/10	70.0	6/9	66.7	3/10	30.0	3/9	33.3	0/10	0.0	0/9	0.0	0/10	0.0	0/9	0.0
IMP LFA	4/10	40.0	3/9	33.3	3/10	30.0	6/9	66.7	2/10	20.0	0/9	0.0	1/10	10.0	0/9	0.0
IMP CC	2/10	20.0	2/9	22.2	3/10	30.0	4/9	44.4	3/10	30.0	1/9	11.1	2/10	20.0	2/9	22.2
IMP NJAPF	3/10	30.0	2/9	22.2	5/10	50.0	6/9	66.7	1/10	10.0	1/9	11.1	1/10	10.0	0/9	0.0
IMP EAC	4/10	40.0	1/9	11.1	3/10	30.0	4/9	44.4	2/10	20.0	4/9	44.4	1/10	10.0	0/9	0.0
IMP EAS	5/10	50.0	2/9	22.2	4/10	40.0	5/9	55.6	1/10	10.0	2/9	22.2	0/10	0.0	0/9	0.0
IMP ENRP	4/10	40.0	5/9	55.6	4/10	40.0	1/9	11.1	1/10	10.0	3/9	33.3	1/10	10.0	0/9	0.0
PSS	2/10	20.0	5/9	55.6	7/10	70.0	4/9	44.4	0/10	0.0	0/9	0.0	1/10	10.0	0/9	0.0
CERQ Adaptive	1/10	10.0	3/9	33.3	4/10	40.0	2/9	22.2	1/10	10.0	2/9	22.2	4/10	40.0	1/9	11.1
CERQ Maladaptive	2/10	20.0	2/9	22.2	4/10	40.0	3/9	33.3	1/10	10.0	2/9	22.2	3/10	30.0	2/9	22.2
PAAQ Total	8/10	80.0	7/9	77.8	1/10	10.0	1/9	11.1	0/10	0.0	0/9	0.0	0/10	0.0	0/9	0.0
PABUA Overprotection	2/10	20.0	1/9	11.1	4/10	40.0	5/9	55.6	0/10	0.0	1/9	11.1	4/10	40.0	2/9	22.2
CBCL School Internalizing	1/7	14.3	2/6	33.3	4/7	57.1	1/6	16.7	1/7	14.3	2/6	33.3	1/7	14.3	1/6	16.7
CBCL Preschool Internalizing	1/3	33.3	0/3	0.0	0/3	0.0	1/3	33.3	0/3	0.0	1/3	33.3	2/3	66.7	1/3	33.3

<sup>a</sup>Standardized difference score ( $\Delta$ ) shows improvement  $\geq 1.96$ ; <sup>b</sup> $\Delta$  shows improvement  $> 0$  but  $< 1.96$ ; <sup>c</sup> $\Delta = 0$ ; <sup>d</sup> $\Delta$  shows deterioration  $> 0$  but  $< 1.96$ ; <sup>e</sup> $\Delta$  shows deterioration  $\geq 1.96$ ; <sup>f</sup>n/n is the number of participants with change at each level, out of the number of participants for whom data was available; *IMP Total* is Interpersonal Mindfulness in Parenting (IMP) Total Scale; *IMP LFA* is IMP Listening with Full Attention Scale; *IMP CC* is IMP Compassion for the Child Scale; *IMP NJAPF* is IMP Non-judgmental Acceptance of Parental Functioning Scale; *IMP EAC* is IMP Emotional Awareness of the Child Scale; *IMP EAS* is IMP Emotional Awareness of the Self Scale; *IMP ENRP* is IMP Emotional Non-reactivity in Parenting Scale; *PSS* is Parental Stress Scale; *CERQ Adaptive* is Adaptive Scale, Cognitive Emotion Regulation Questionnaire – Short Form (CERQ); *CERQ Maladaptive* is Maladaptive Scale, CERQ; *PAAQ Total* is Total Scale, Parental Acceptance and Action Questionnaire; *PABUA Overprotection* is Overprotection Scale, Parental Attitudes, Beliefs and Understanding about Anxiety Scale; *CBCL School Internalizing* is Internalizing Scale, Child Behavior Checklist (CBCL) 6–18 years; *CBCL Preschool Internalizing* is Internalizing Scale, CBCL 3–5 years

**Table 6** Themes identified in parent feedback regarding the impact of the mindful parenting program ( $N = 10$ )

Theme ( $n$ ) <sup>a</sup>	Description of theme	Excerpt of parent feedback
Present-moment awareness (5)	Describes parents' increased awareness and understanding of their current experience and how this impacts their parenting	P2: <i>It has given me a chance to assess how I am feeling which [drives] my decisions</i> P6: <i>Allows me to understand my reaction to it [my child's anxiety]</i>
Intensity of emotional experience (5)	Captures parents' reports of less intense emotional experiences in parenting, and their increased understanding of these experiences	P1: <i>Less angry</i> P7: <i>You react with much less anxiety yourself</i> P11: <i>I see his anxiety as a normal but not a stressful issue</i>
Acceptance (7)	Parents' reported becoming more tolerant and accepting of difficult emotions and situations	P8: <i>They're the same emotions, but I'm trying to sit with them before reacting now</i> P10: <i>Felt not so overwhelmed about having to problem solve it [my child's anxiety]/her</i>
Self-regulation (6)	Describes parents' enhanced ability to consciously respond, rather than automatically react, to their child	P3: <i>Being able to take time and think before I respond to her reactions</i> P9: <i>More patience to help her work through anxiety, opens up new options</i>
Empathy (8)	Parents described having a broader perspective of their child, being more understanding of them and more able to empathize with them	P6: <i>Allowed me to reconnect with the bigger picture of my child's life, beyond the one issue</i> P8: <i>I've taken more time to really appreciate her</i> P10: <i>To become more empathetic about my child's feelings and understanding ... while at times hard to understand, give her the space and time to explain them</i>
Self-compassion (2)	Parents reported feeling less isolated in dealing with their child's difficulties	P7: <i>I found that ... we are not alone in the anxiety struggle</i> P11: <i>I'm less hard on myself when things don't go right</i>

<sup>a</sup>Number of parents whose comments identified the theme

pandemic negatively impacted their ability to benefit from the program, all still found the program to be of lasting value and would recommend it to others, suggesting that a mindful parenting program can be helpful even at times of heightened general stress.

Concerning preliminary effects, compared to waitlist, the intervention group reported large reductions in internalizing problems for their school-aged children (6–18 years). Existing studies have shown reduced internalizing problems in groups of children with externalizing problems or mixed diagnoses (Haydicky et al., 2015), so the present results suggest these reductions also occur for children with primary internalizing concerns. However, despite the preliminary evidence of treatment success at the group level, the low rates of reliable improvement at the individual level indicate that a substantial proportion of children did not benefit from their parents doing the program. This is consistent with findings from other studies, which typically show quite low rates of improvement with reliable change analyses, even for evidence-based child treatments (Smith & Jensen-Doss, 2017). For preschool-aged (3–5 years) children, the symptom reductions were negligible. Due to the dearth of research on the differential impacts of mindful parenting for children of particular developmental stages, it is unclear why the

program appeared to benefit only the older group. One study of developmentally delayed preschool children found less internalizing problems after their parents attended a MBSR program (McGregor et al., 2020). The discrepancy between that study and the present one could be due to low baseline levels of internalizing problems in the present sample of preschool children, particularly compared to the higher rates for developmentally delayed children (Van Steensel et al., 2011), such that there was limited scope for improvement in the present sample. Alternatively, since none of the preschool children had reliably reduced internalizing symptoms at follow-up, it is possible that the program did not meet the needs of parents with younger children. Older children are generally more likely to be classified as improved under reliable change analyses, so more targeted programs may be needed for younger children (Smith & Jensen-Doss, 2017), including in [mindful parenting](#) programs.

There were moderate to large improvements in all facets of mindful parenting, and overall mindful parenting reliably improved in 70% of parents. This suggests the program was successful in its aim to develop parents' ability to broaden their attentional focus and acceptance regarding their child. There were also moderate to large reductions in [parenting stress](#), parental experiential avoidance, maladaptive



cognitive emotion regulation and unhelpful beliefs regarding child anxiety, and a small increase in adaptive cognitive emotion regulation. These results provide tentative evidence that mindful parenting is at least as useful for parents concerned about child internalizing, as for those managing child externalizing, since the latter group of parents have typically reported only small to moderate reductions in [parenting stress](#), psychopathology, and negative parenting style (Bögels et al., 2014). The results also suggest that improved parental emotion regulation may be one way in which mindful parenting can reduce child internalizing symptoms. By building parents' ability to tolerate difficult emotions, the program may help parents to model more helpful, active coping strategies for their child, instead of the avoidant coping behaviors that tend to maintain internalizing symptoms (Tiwari et al., 2008). Parental modelling of strategies predicts the child's use of strategies and the child's internalizing symptoms (Gunzenhauser et al., 2014; Wald et al., 2018).

This study went beyond showing general trait improvements. The weekly coping data showed that, even with pandemic-related uncertainty occurring throughout the program, parents felt less intensely stressed and were less experientially avoidant and more self-regulated, in specific, difficult parenting moments. The program therefore appears to help parents respond to their children in a more helpful manner, even at times of heightened stress when this might otherwise have been too difficult. This is particularly important in relation to parents of children with internalizing problems, since they are more likely to interpret situations in a threatening manner (Creswell et al., 2005) and to intervene in difficult situations, for example by physically or emotionally removing themselves or their child from the situation, which can contribute to or maintain child internalizing problems (McLeod et al., 2007; Tiwari et al., 2008). This could be explained by the program successfully broadening parents' attentional focus and acceptance regarding their child, so they become more receptive to experience (Bishop et al., 2004). This would allow for less threatening evaluations of particular situations, and therefore lowered stress appraisals (Weinstein et al., 2009) and less need for avoidant, overprotective, or other unhelpful parenting behavior (Tiwari et al., 2008).

Finally, based on the qualitative feedback, it appears likely that a mindful parenting program would be successful with parents of children with primary internalizing concerns. Parent feedback regarding how the program helped them to cope with their child's internalizing symptoms raised six themes that overlapped somewhat with the six facets of the IMP (de Bruin et al., 2014). The two most commonly identified themes were *acceptance* and *empathy*, which was similar to the acceptance and emotional awareness that we expected. Acceptance and the theme *self-compassion* together reflect the IMP facet Non-judgmental

Acceptance of Parental Functioning (NJAPF), which captures a parent's ability to be accepting and compassionate regarding themselves as a parent. The identification of the themes acceptance and self-compassion is consistent with evidence from earlier studies, which have found NJAPF to be the aspect of mindful parenting most predictive of child internalizing problems (Burgdorf & Szabó, 2021). The theme *empathy* encompasses the Emotional Awareness of the Child (EAC) and Compassion for the Child facets of the IMP. After NJAPF, EAC is the only other facet of mindful parenting that has been found to predict child internalizing problems (Burgdorf & Szabó, 2021). Lack of awareness regarding a child's anxiety could result in a parent failing to help the child manage that anxiety or managing it unhelpfully (Hurrell et al., 2017). Conversely, more aware or empathic parents can help reduce child anxiety, for example by providing an appropriate level of encouragement for their child to approach anxiety-inducing situations, allowing gradual exposures to such situations (Settipani & Kendall, 2017). Greater empathy may also reduce child internalizing by increasing the child's perception of parental warmth or support (Flory, 2004; Stern et al., 2015), which is longitudinally associated with reductions in child internalizing problems (Pinquart, 2017).

Parent feedback also raised themes of *present-moment awareness*, *intensity of emotional experience* (including less intense stress), and *self-regulation*. The intensity of emotional experience and self-regulation themes were similar to the Emotional Awareness of Self and Emotional Non-reactivity in Parenting IMP facets. Although some studies have found that parenting stress does not predict child internalizing (Burgdorf et al., 2019; Emerson et al., 2019), there may be an indirect link, through self-regulation. Stress makes it more difficult for parents to use appropriate strategies to regulate their own emotional state and behaviors (Crandall et al., 2015; Raio et al., 2013). As self-regulation influences how parents respond to a child's negative emotions, and the development of a child's own regulatory skills (Morris et al., 2017), it plays a crucial role in the child's well-being, including their level of anxiety (Morris et al., 2017; Wald et al., 2018). Accordingly, less stressed parents can better self-regulate, thus lowering their child's risk of anxiety. *Present-moment awareness* was similar to the IMP Listening with Full Attention facet (LFA), although unlike LFA, it related to the parents' attention for their own, rather than their child's, present experiences. A heightened awareness of their own experience and how it affects their parenting may also improve parental self-regulation, by allowing more conscious responding to the child, for example with more positive and less negative behaviors, which both predict lower child internalizing problems over time (Pinquart, 2017). Overall, the qualitatively identified themes support the quantitative data in

suggesting that mindful parenting may help reduce child internalizing symptoms by improving parents' ability to regulate themselves and by improving their emotional connection with their child.

### Limitations and Future Research

There were several limitations related to assessment, in this study. The post-program internal consistencies and reliabilities for the CERQ Maladaptive and CBCL Internalizing (preschool) scales were relatively low. This could have impacted the accuracy of effects found for these two outcomes. Common method bias is also likely to have affected the effect estimates. For example, using parents as the sole respondents may have inflated effects due to the tendency to respond in a positive way or social desirability (Podsakoff et al., 2012). Parents invested significant time in the 8-week program, which may have led them to report greater improvements in the measured outcomes than actually occurred. Future studies could reduce the impact of this bias by including different respondents (Podsakoff et al., 2012), such as partners or children of participating parents, for example regarding the child's internalizing symptoms and their perceptions of any change in the participating parent. The qualitative data was collected from parents online, using a small number of open-ended questions. While the use of online questionnaires for collecting qualitative data is convenient for parents and can provide rich data (Braun et al., 2020), it is also possible that parents may have given less thought to their answers or provided less detail in this online format, than if they were interviewed by a researcher.

There were also limitations related to the sample. As we used a community-recruited sample, it is suggested that the study be replicated in a clinical sample, for example with parents of children with a diagnosed internalizing disorder. It is also important to note that the proportion of fathers participating in this study was very low (8%), with only 1 father participating in each group. Mothers report higher levels of mindful parenting than fathers (Moreira & Canavarro, 2015), and there is no evidence as to the structure of mindful parenting in fathers (Burgdorf & Szabó, 2021). The present results may therefore not be indicative of the outcomes for fathers, either due to differences between mothers and fathers in baseline levels, or in the structure, of mindful parenting. Similarly, the sample was homogenous in that it consisted largely of parents with a tertiary education, who identified culturally as "Australian". Replication of the study in different population groups is necessary, as parental engagement with parenting programs can be affected by factors including education, socio-economic status, and cultural values (Axford et al., 2012). Accordingly, although promising, the improvements in parent and

child outcomes in this small feasibility sample must be regarded as preliminary, until replicated in a definitive trial of the program for this population of parents.

**Author Contribution** VB: designed the study, co-facilitated the program, collected and analyzed the data, and wrote and revised the manuscript. MA: reviewed the statistical analyses and each version of the manuscript. MS: reviewed and revised the study design, co-facilitated the program, and reviewed the statistical analyses and each version of the manuscript. All authors approved the final version of the manuscript for submission.

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### Declarations

**Ethics** Ethical approval (793/2019) was obtained from the Human Research Ethics Committee of The University of Sydney. Informed written consent was obtained from all participants in the study.

**Conflict of Interest** The authors declare no competing interests.

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Thursday, 28 November 2019

Dr Marianna Szabo  
Psychology; Faculty of Science  
Email: marianna.szabo@sydney.edu.au

Dear Marianna,

The University of Sydney Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC) has considered your application.

I am pleased to inform you that after consideration of your response, your project has been approved.

Details of the approval are as follows:

**Project No.:** 2019/793

**Project Title:** Mindful parenting and child emotional well-being

**Authorised Personnel:** Szabo Marianna; Burgdorf Virginia;

**Approval Period:** 28 November 2019 to 28 November 2023

**First Annual Report Due:** 28 November 2020

### Documents Approved:

Date Uploaded	Version Number	Document Name
05/11/2019	Version 2	Study Flyer - revised
05/11/2019	Version 2	PIS - revised
05/11/2019	Version 1	CBCL questionnaire
05/11/2019	Version 1	PAAQ
05/11/2019	Version 2	PCF - revised
13/09/2019	Version 1	Appendix E - Intake/Orientation
13/09/2019	Version 1	Appendix F - Demographics Questionnaire
13/09/2019	Version 1	Appendix G - IMP
13/09/2019	Version 1	Appendix H - DASS21
13/09/2019	Version 1	Appendix I - CERQ
13/09/2019	Version 1	Appendix J - PABUA
13/09/2019	Version 1	Appendix B - EOI page
13/09/2019	Version 1	Appendix L - PAS
13/09/2019	Version 1	Appendix O - Feedback questionnaire

### Special Condition/s of Approval

Thank you for submitting documents with tracked changes. Please submit final versions of the PIS and PCF with all changes accepted.

Regarding the additional modifications requested:

- It is noted that only some of the CBCL questions are relevant to the study. Please submit a document or link to online survey with only those CBCL questions which will be delivered to participants, so that the approved documents in IRMA reflect the questions which will be asked.





### Condition/s of Approval

- Research must be conducted according to the approved proposal.
- An annual progress report must be submitted to the Ethics Office on or before the anniversary of approval and on completion of the project.
- You must report as soon as practicable anything that might warrant review of ethical approval of the project including:
  - Serious or unexpected adverse events (which should be reported within 72 hours).
  - Unforeseen events that might affect continued ethical acceptability of the project.
- Any changes to the proposal must be approved prior to their implementation (except where an amendment is undertaken to eliminate *immediate* risk to participants).
- Personnel working on this project must be sufficiently qualified by education, training and experience for their role, or adequately supervised. Changes to personnel must be reported and approved.
- Personnel must disclose any actual or potential conflicts of interest, including any financial or other interest or affiliation, as relevant to this project.
- Data and primary materials must be retained and stored in accordance with the relevant legislation and University guidelines.
- Ethics approval is dependent upon ongoing compliance of the research with the *National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research*, the *Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research*, applicable legal requirements, and with University policies, procedures and governance requirements.
- The Ethics Office may conduct audits on approved projects.
- The Chief Investigator has ultimate responsibility for the conduct of the research and is responsible for ensuring all others involved will conduct the research in accordance with the above.

This letter constitutes ethical approval only.

Please contact the Ethics Office should you require further information or clarification.

Sincerely,



E

Professor Glen Davis  
Chair  
Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC 2)

The University of Sydney of Sydney HRECs are constituted and operate in accordance with the National Health and Medical Research Council's (NHMRC) [National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research \(2007\)](#) and the NHMRC's [Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research \(2007\)](#)

Tuesday, 17 March 2020

Dr Marianna Szabo  
Psychology; Faculty of Science  
Email: marianna.szabo@sydney.edu.au

Dear Marianna,

Your request to modify this project, which was submitted on 16 March 2020, has been considered.

This project has been approved to proceed with the proposed amendments.

**Protocol Number: 2019/793**

**Protocol Title: Mindful parenting and child emotional well-being**

**Approved:**

- *meetings held via the university Zoom platform instead of in-person*

Please contact the ethics office should you require further information.

Sincerely,



**Dr Clifton Chan**  
Chair, Modification Review Committee (MRC 3)

The University of Sydney of Sydney HRECs are constituted and operate in accordance with the National Health and Medical Research Council's (NHMRC) [National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research \(2007\)](#) and the NHMRC's [Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research \(2007\)](#)

Friday, 3 April 2020

Dr Marianna Szabo  
Psychology; Faculty of Science  
Email: marianna.szabo@sydney.edu.au

Dear Marianna,

Your request to modify this project, which was submitted on 31 March 2020, has been considered.

After consideration of your response to the comments raised, this project has been approved to proceed with the proposed amendments.

**Protocol Number: 2019/793**

**Protocol Title: Mindful parenting and child emotional well-being**

**Documents Approved:**

Date Uploaded	Version Number	Document Name
03/04/2020	Version 3	Updated Participant Feedback Questionnaire

Please contact the ethics office should you require further information.

Sincerely,



**Dr Clifton Chan**  
Modification Review Committee (MRC 3)

The University of Sydney of Sydney HRECs are constituted and operate in accordance with the National Health and Medical Research Council's (NHMRC) [National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research \(2007\)](#) and the NHMRC's [Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research \(2007\)](#)

## Learn how to bring mindfulness to your parenting

### Research study: Mindful parenting and children's emotional well-being

- We are running a mindful parenting program
- Run by qualified facilitators over 8 weeks, with one 2-hour session per week
- We will ask you to complete online questionnaires before, during and after the program to measure its effects
- This study will investigate whether the program improves child emotional well-being, by assisting parents to manage their own emotions, beliefs and behaviours

### Who can participate?

We are looking for parents:

- with a child aged 3-18 years
- who are concerned their child tends to worry, or be sad, sensitive, anxious, nervous or shy
- who are not currently engaging in other psychotherapy
- who do not suffer from serious mental health conditions such as a psychotic or bipolar disorder or substance dependence

**Interested in participating?**

Register your interest at:

[https://sydney.au1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_6fMmLjGLuH09dOZ](https://sydney.au1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6fMmLjGLuH09dOZ)

or contact the researcher on [virginia.burgdorf@sydney.edu.au](mailto:virginia.burgdorf@sydney.edu.au) or 0458 638 728.



This study has been approved by Human Ethics Research Committee, approval no. 2019/793. Chief Investigator: Dr Marianna Szabo, Room 417 Brennan MacCallum Building, The University of Sydney. Email: [marianna.szabo@sydney.edu.au](mailto:marianna.szabo@sydney.edu.au)



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## Mindful parenting and child emotional well-being

### PARTICIPANT INFORMATION STATEMENT

#### (1) What is this study about?

You are invited to take part in a research study about mindful parenting and children's emotional well-being. Mindful parenting programs benefit parents by reducing parenting stress (Bögels, Hellemans, van Deursen, Romer, & van der Meulen 2014). They also benefit children in numerous ways, including by reducing behavioural and emotional problems (Bögels et al. 2014). Most mindful parenting programs are designed for parents whose children have significant behavioural problems (Burgdorf, Szabo, & Abbott, 2019). This study will test an 8-week mindful parenting program modified for parents who are concerned that their child may have emotional problems, such as a tendency to worry, or be sensitive, nervous, anxious or shy. The study will investigate (1) the feasibility of the program, as a way to improve child emotional well-being by assisting parents to manage their own emotions and anxiety-related beliefs and behaviours; and (2) the acceptability of the program to parents.

You have been invited to participate in this study because you are the parent (or in the role of parent) of a child aged between 3 and 18 years. This Participant Information Statement tells you about the research study, so you can decide if you want to take part.

#### (2) Who is running the study?

The study is being carried out by Gini Burgdorf as part of the degree of Doctor of Philosophy at The University of Sydney. This will take place under the supervision of Dr Marianna Szabo (Senior Lecturer, The University of Sydney).

#### (3) What will the study involve for me?

Mindful parenting groups will be run by the researchers at The University of Sydney, Camperdown. Each group will have between 8 and 15 parents in it. Children do not attend the groups. Each group runs for 8 weeks, with one 2-hour session per week. Groups will be run during school terms.

If you are eligible to participate in this study, we will randomly assign you to either a mindful parenting group or a waitlist control group. If you are allocated to a mindful parenting group, you will be offered a place in the 8-week mindful parenting program and you will be asked to complete a set of online questionnaires, on 4 occasions: (1) in the week before the program, (2) after the 4<sup>th</sup> session of the program, (3) immediately after the program, and (4) 2 months after the program.

If you are allocated to a waitlist group, you will receive the same questionnaires at the same times as the parents allocated to the mindful parenting group. You will also be offered a place in the same mindful parenting program, but the program will be run after completion of the final set of questionnaires (in the next school term). This means that waitlist group participants complete their questionnaires **before** they attend the program. Having half the parents answer their questionnaires before the course and half answer them after the course allows us to compare outcomes for parents who have done the course with those who have not.

During the course, video-recordings will be made of the researchers (not the parents), so they can obtain supervision and ensure they are delivering the course effectively to parents.

#### **(4) How much of my time will the study take?**

The mindful parenting program runs for 8 weeks, with one 2-hour session per week. You will be asked to complete the questionnaires 4 times; they will take about 30 minutes to complete each time (you can do this online, at a time that is convenient).

#### **(5) Who can take part in the study?**

You may take part in the study if you are a parent (or in the role of parent) to a child aged between 3 and 18 years, if:

- you have adequate mastery of the English language: the course will be conducted in English and all questionnaires are in English;
- you are not currently engaging in another psychological therapy aimed at managing anxiety or parenting or child difficulties: this allows us to rule out the possibility that a course other than the mindful parenting course is contributing to any changes in measured outcomes;
- you do not have organic brain damage: the course content and format and questionnaires are not suitable for individuals with a cognitive impairment or intellectual disorder;
- you are not experiencing a current episode of psychosis or bipolar disorder, and do not have a history of psychosis or a psychotic disorder, or bipolar disorder: the course is not designed to target mechanisms underlying these conditions;
- you do not have any current or recent (within last 12 months) substance dependence: the course is not tailored specifically to meet the needs of individuals with substance use difficulties;
- you do not have significant interpersonal difficulties (such as anti-social behaviour): individuals with such difficulties are likely to find it hard to engage in the group-format program. This may also adversely affect overall group functioning;
- you are not at current, moderate to high risk of self-harm or suicide: in a group course, the facilitators are unable to provide the individual care required for an individual at this risk;
- there are no current safeguarding concerns about any children in the family: in a group course, the facilitators cannot provide the level of individual family support required if there are safety concerns regarding any child;
- your child does not have an intellectual disability: the program is not tailored to meet the needs of parents with a child with an intellectual disability.

#### **(6) Do I have to be in the study? Can I withdraw from the study once I've started?**

Being in this study is voluntary. Your decision whether to participate will not affect your current or future relationship with the researchers or anyone else at the University of Sydney.

If you decide to participate and then change your mind later, you are free to withdraw at any time. You can do this by notifying the researcher at [virginia.burgdorf@sydney.edu.au](mailto:virginia.burgdorf@sydney.edu.au). If you withdraw from the study, we will not collect any more information from you. We will ask you whether you want us to delete the information that we have already collected from you or whether we may keep that information and include it in the aggregated study results.

If at any point during your attendance at a mindful parenting course the researchers form the opinion that your behaviour is jeopardising the physical or emotional safety of anyone in the group or disrupting the cohesiveness of the group, the researchers may ask you to leave the group.

**(7) Are there any risks or costs associated with being in the study?**

Throughout the mindful parenting program, group members will be invited to engage in short, guided mindfulness exercises. During these exercises, it is possible that you will feel emotional discomfort if asked to pay attention to an aspect of your psychological state, such as your thoughts or emotions. It is also possible that you will feel physical discomfort if asked to pay attention to a part of your body that is injured or tense. However, throughout the course, you will be free to participate to the extent that you feel able to. After each mindfulness exercise, the researchers will invite group members to share their experiences of that exercise, whether positive or negative, to help group members normalise their experience, gain insight into potentially unhelpful patterns of thinking, feeling and reacting and to develop self-compassion. While we do not expect participants to suffer any substantial distress, there will be an opportunity at the end of every session to discuss any concerns privately with the researchers.

Apart from taking up your time to complete the program and questionnaires, we do not expect that there will be any other risks or costs associated with this study.

**(8) What happens if I suffer injury or complications as a result of the study?**

We do not expect injuries or complications to result from this study. However, if you do suffer any injuries or complications, you should contact your doctor as soon as possible. You may have a right to take legal action to obtain compensation for any injuries or complications resulting from the study. Compensation may be available if your injury or complication is caused by the negligence of any of the parties involved in the study. If you receive compensation that includes an amount for medical expenses, you will be required to pay for your medical treatment from those compensation monies.

If you are not eligible for compensation for your injury or complication under the law, but are eligible for Medicare, then you can receive any medical treatment required for your injury or complication free of charge as a public patient in any Australian public hospital.

**(9) Are there any benefits associated with being in the study?**

Following the completion of the 8-week program and all questionnaires, you will receive a gift card worth \$25 to thank you for your participation in this study. Attending the mindful parenting program may also benefit you by giving you skills to manage any parenting stress that you experience and to change the way in which you relate to your thoughts and emotions, particularly about your child/children.

Your participation in this study may also benefit other families in the future, by helping researchers to understand whether mindful parenting programs can improve child emotional well-being by assisting parents to manage their own emotions and anxiety-related beliefs and behaviours.

**(10) What will happen to information about me that is collected during the study?**

By providing your consent, you are agreeing to us collecting personal information about you for the purposes of this research study. This information will only be used for the purposes outlined in this Participant Information Statement.

- The types of information to be collected from you will be about demographics, your parenting style, typical emotion regulation strategies and anxiety-related beliefs and behaviours, your child's emotional well-being, and the acceptability of the mindful parenting program.
- This information will be collected through online questionnaires, hosted on Qualtrics. Qualtrics meets strict security requirements.
- During the study, the collected information will be stored in a file accessible only by the researchers, on a secure server maintained by The University of Sydney.
- Your identity and information will be kept strictly confidential, except as required by law.
- After completion of the study, all data will be "de-identified", so that it cannot be linked to you in any way. This non-identifiable information will be stored for 20 years (as required by law) in the University's secure Research Data Store and will then be destroyed.
- The findings of this study may be published in the researcher's doctoral thesis, or used by the researchers alone or with collaborating researchers to write scientific papers or conference presentations. The data may also be used in future scientific research. Only non-identifiable information will be used for these purposes (no participant will be individually identifiable and the reported results will be based on aggregated participant data).

**(11) What will happen when the study is finished?**

If you are interested in attending other mindfulness or parenting courses after the mindful parenting program ends in this study, the researchers can provide you with some suggestions.

**(12) Can I tell other people about the study?**

Yes.

**(13) What if I would like further information about the study?**

If you would like to know more at any stage of the study, please feel free to contact the researcher at [virginia.burgdorf@sydney.edu.au](mailto:virginia.burgdorf@sydney.edu.au).

**(14) Will I be told the results of the study?**

You have a right to receive feedback about the overall results of this study. You can tell us that you wish to receive feedback on the Consent Form that follows this information statement. The feedback will be in the form of a summary of the overall findings of the research, which will be emailed to participants after the study is finished.

**(15) What if I have a complaint or any concerns about the study?**

Research involving humans in Australia is reviewed by an independent group of people called a Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC). The ethical aspects of this study have been approved by the HREC

of the University of Sydney (protocol number 2019/793). As part of this process, we have agreed to carry out the study according to the *National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research (2007)*. This statement has been developed to protect people who agree to take part in research studies.

If you are concerned about the way this study is being conducted or you wish to make a complaint to someone independent from the study, please contact the university using the details outlined below. Please quote the study title and protocol number.

The Manager, Ethics Administration, University of Sydney:

- **Telephone:** +61 2 8627 8176
- **Email:** [human.ethics@sydney.edu.au](mailto:human.ethics@sydney.edu.au)
- **Fax:** +61 2 8627 8177 (Facsimile)

### PARTICIPANT CONSENT FORM

I confirm that I wish to participate in this study, on the terms set out in the Participant Information Statement.

In giving my consent I confirm that:

- ✓ I understand the purpose of the study, what I will be asked to do, and any risks/benefits involved.
- ✓ I have read the Participant Information Statement and have been able to discuss my involvement in the study with the researchers if I wished to do so.
- ✓ The researchers have answered any questions that I had about the study and I am happy with the answers.
- ✓ I understand that being in this study is voluntary. My decision whether to be in the study will not affect my relationship with the researchers or anyone else at the University of Sydney.
- ✓ I understand that I can withdraw from the study at any time.
- ✓ I understand that the personal information that is collected about me will be stored securely and will only be used as outlined in the Participant Information Statement or as required by law.
- ✓ I understand that the results of this study may be published, and that publications will not contain my name or any identifiable information about me.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sign name

## APPENDIX D5

### Demographics Questionnaire

1. Do you consider yourself to be the primary caregiver for the children in your family?
  - a. Yes
  - b. No
  - c. I share the caregiving role equally with another family member
  
2. What is your age (in years): [*select from pull down menu*]
  
3. In which country is your primary residence? [*select from pull-down menu*]
  
4. Please choose the cultural background that you most closely identify with:
  - a. Australian
  - b. Australian Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander or South Sea Islander
  - c. New Zealander
  - d. British or Irish
  - e. Western European
  - f. Northern European
  - g. Southern European
  - h. Eastern European
  - i. South-East Asian
  - j. North-East Asian
  - k. Southern or Central Asian
  - l. Middle Eastern
  - m. North American
  - n. South American or Central American
  - o. North African
  - p. Sub-Saharan African
  - q. Other (please specify)
  
5. What is the highest level of education you have completed?
  - a. Post-graduate degree (Master's degree or doctoral degree)
  - b. Bachelor's degree (including an Honours-level degree)
  - c. Associate's degree
  - d. Vocational training (Certificate I, II, III or IV)
  - e. High school or secondary school (Year 12 or equivalent) or less
  - f. Other
  
6. How many children are in your family:
  - a. 1
  - b. 2
  - c. 3
  - d. 4
  - e. 5 or more
  
7. Have you ever been diagnosed with a mental health condition?

- a. Yes
  - b. No
8. Have you ever engaged in the formal practice of mindfulness (or other form of meditation or contemplative practice)?
- a. No formal practice
  - b. Mindfulness
  - c. Yoga
  - d. Tai chi
  - e. Other (please specify)
9. *[Display this question only if "No formal practice" is not selected in Q8]* For approximately how long have you engaged in formal practice?
- a. Less than 3 months
  - b. 3 to 6 months
  - c. 6 months to 1 year
  - d. 1 to 5 years
  - e. 5 to 10 years
  - f. More than 10 years
10. *[Display this question only if "No formal practice" is not selected in Q8]* How frequently are you currently engaging in formal practice of mindfulness (or other form of meditation or contemplative practice)?
- a. Once or more a day
  - b. 3 or more times a week
  - c. 1 to 2 times a week
  - d. Once a fortnight
  - e. Once a month
  - f. Less than once a month
  - g. Not currently practicing

For the following questions about parenting practices, please choose one child aged 2-18 years in your family, and answer the questions about your parenting of that child:

11. What is your relationship to the child about whom you will answer the parenting questions?
- a. Biological mother
  - b. Biological father
  - c. Adoptive mother
  - d. Adoptive father
  - e. Stepmother
  - f. Stepfather
  - g. Foster mother
  - h. Foster father
  - i. Grandmother
  - j. Grandfather
  - k. Other (please specify)

12. What is the gender of the child about whom you will answer the parenting questions?

- a. Male
- b. Female
- c. Other (please specify)

13. What is the age of the child about whom you will answer the parenting questions? [*select from pull-down menu*]



## Interpersonal Mindfulness in Parenting Scale

The following statements describe different ways that parents interact with their children on a daily basis. Please select whether you think the statement is “Never True”, “Rarely True”, “Sometimes True”, “Often True” or “Always True” for you.

Remember there are no right or wrong answers. Please answer according to what **really** reflects your experience rather than what you think your experience *should* be. Please treat each statement separately from every other statement.

	Never True	Rarely True	Sometimes True	Often True	Always True
1. I find myself listening to my child with one ear because I am busy doing or thinking about something else at the same time.	1	2	3	4	5
2. When I'm upset with my child, I notice how I am feeling before I take action.	1	2	3	4	5
3. I notice how changes in my child's mood affect my mood.	1	2	3	4	5
4. I listen carefully to my child's ideas, even when I disagree with them.	1	2	3	4	5
5. I often react too quickly to what my child says or does.	1	2	3	4	5
6. I am aware of how my moods affect the way I treat my child.	1	2	3	4	5
7. Even when it makes me uncomfortable, I allow my child to express his/her feelings.	1	2	3	4	5
8. When I am upset with my child, I calmly tell him/her how I am feeling.	1	2	3	4	5
9. I rush through activities with my child without really being attentive to him/her.	1	2	3	4	5
10. I have difficulty accepting my child's growing independence.	1	2	3	4	5
11. How I am feeling tends to affect my parenting decisions, but I do not realise it until later.	1	2	3	4	5
12. It is hard for me to tell what my child is feeling.	1	2	3	4	5
13. When I am doing things with my child, my mind wanders off and I am easily distracted.	1	2	3	4	5
14. When my child misbehaves, it makes me so upset I say or do things I later regret.	1	2	3	4	5
15. I tend to be hard on myself when I make mistakes as a parent.	1	2	3	4	5

16. When my child does something that upsets me, I try to keep my emotions in balance.	1	2	3	4	5
17. When times are really difficult with my child, I tend to blame myself.	1	2	3	4	5
18. When things I try to do as a parent do not work out, I can accept them and move on.	1	2	3	4	5
19. I am often so busy thinking about other things that I realise I am not really listening to my child.	1	2	3	4	5
20. When I do something as a parent that I regret, I try to give myself a break.	1	2	3	4	5
21. In difficult situations with my child, I pause without immediately reacting.	1	2	3	4	5
22. It is easy for me to tell when my child is worried about something.	1	2	3	4	5
23. I tend to criticize myself for not being the kind of parent I want to be.	1	2	3	4	5
24. I pay close attention to my child when we are spending time together.	1	2	3	4	5
25. I am kind to my child when he/she is upset.	1	2	3	4	5
26. When I am having a hard time with parenting, I feel like other parents must have an easier time of it.	1	2	3	4	5
27. When my child is going through a difficult time, I try to give him/her the nurturing and caring he/she needs.	1	2	3	4	5
28. I try to understand my child's point of view, even when his/her opinions do not makes sense to me.	1	2	3	4	5
29. When something my child does upsets me, I get carried away with my feelings.	1	2	3	4	5
30. I can tell what my child is feeling even if he/she does not say anything.	1	2	3	4	5
31. I try to be understanding and patient with my child when he/she is having a hard time.	1	2	3	4	5

Duncan, L. G. (2007). Assessment of mindful parenting among parents of early adolescents: Development and validation of the Interpersonal Mindfulness in Parenting scale. [doctoral dissertation]. Pennsylvania State University.

Duncan, L. G., Coatsworth, J., & Greenberg, M. T. (2009). A model of mindful parenting: Implications for parent-child relationships and prevention research. *Clinical Child and Family Psychology Review*, 12, 255-270. doi:10.1007/s10567-009-0046-3

### Parenting Stress Scale

The following statements describe feelings and perceptions about the experience of being a parent. Indicate the degree to which you agree or disagree with the statements below by thinking about how your relationship with your child or children typically is.

1 = Strongly disagree    2 = Disagree    3 = Undecided    4 = Agree    5 = Strongly agree

1	I am happy in my role as a parent	
2	There is little or nothing I wouldn't do for my child(ren) if it was necessary.	
3	Caring for my child(ren) sometimes takes more time and energy than I have to give.	
4	I sometimes worry whether I am doing enough for my child(ren).	
5	I feel close to my child(ren).	
6	I enjoy spending time with my child(ren).	
7	My child(ren) is an important source of affection for me.	
8	Having child(ren) gives me a more certain and optimistic view for the future.	
9	The major source of stress in my life is my child(ren).	
10	Having child(ren) leaves little time and flexibility in my life.	
11	Having child(ren) has been a financial burden.	
12	It is difficult to balance different responsibilities because of my child(ren).	
13	The behaviour of my child(ren) is often embarrassing or stressful to me.	
14	If I had it to do over again, I might decide not to have child(ren).	
15	I feel overwhelmed by the responsibility of being a parent.	
16	Having child(ren) has meant having too few choices and too little control over my life.	
17	I am satisfied as a parent	
18	I find my child(ren) enjoyable	

Berry, J.D., & Jones, W.H. (1995). The Parental Stress Scale: Initial psychometric evidence. *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships*, 12, 463 – 472.

## **Cognitive Emotion Regulation Questionnaire--Short Form**

Everyone gets confronted with negative or unpleasant experiences and everyone responds to them in his or her own way. Choose the most suitable response to the following statements, to indicate what you **generally** think, **when you experience negative or unpleasant events**.

- 1 = Never or almost never
- 2 = Sometimes
- 3 = Regularly
- 4 = Often
- 5 = Always or almost always

### **Self-blame**

- I feel that I am the one who is responsible for what has happened
- I think that basically the cause must lie within myself

### **Acceptance**

- I think that I have to accept that this has happened
- I think that I have to accept the situation

### **Focus on thought/rumination**

- I often think about how I feel about what I have experienced
- I am preoccupied with what I think and feel about what I have experienced

### **Positive refocusing**

- I think of pleasant things that have nothing to do with it
- I think of something nice instead of what has happened

### **Refocus on planning**

- I think about how to change the situation
- I think about a plan of what I can do best

### **Positive reappraisal**

- I think I can learn something from the situation
- I think that I can become a stronger person as a result of what has happened

Garnefski, N., & Kraaij, V. (2006). Cognitive emotion regulation questionnaire – development of a short 18-item version (CERQ-short). *Personality and Individual Differences*, 41, 1045-1053. doi.org/10.1016/j.paid.2006.04.010

## Parental Acceptance and Action Questionnaire

Thinking about the child you are answering about, please rate the degree to which the following statements are true about you.

1 = Never true	2 = Very rarely true	3 = Seldom true	4 = Sometimes true	5 = Frequently true	6 = Almost always true	7 = Always true
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### Inaction

1. I am able to take action about my child's fears, worries, and feelings even if I am uncertain what the right thing is to do.
2. When I feel depressed or anxious, I am unable to help my child manage their fears, worries, or feelings.
3. I try to suppress thoughts and feelings about my child that I don't like, by just not thinking about them.
4. In order for my child to do something important, I have to have all my doubts about it worked out.
5. I'm not afraid of my child's feelings.
6. Despite my doubts, I feel as though I can set a plan for managing my child's feelings.
7. If I get frustrated with my child, then I can still help him or her.
8. I often catch myself daydreaming about things I've done with my child and what I would do differently next time.
9. When I compare myself to other parents, it seems that most of them are handling their lives better than I do.

### Unwillingness

10. It's okay for my child to feel depressed or anxious.
11. I rarely worry about getting my child's anxieties, worries, and feelings under control.
12. I try hard to avoid having my child feel depressed or anxious.
13. It is bad if my child feels anxious.
14. If I could magically remove all the painful experiences my child has had in his or her life, I would do so.
15. Worries can get in the way of my child's success.

Cheron, D. M., Ehrenreich, J. T., & Pincus, D. B. (2009). Assessment of Parental Experiential Avoidance in a Clinical Sample of Children with Anxiety Disorders. *Child Psychiatry and Human Development*, 40, 383-403. doi: 10.1007/s10578-009-0135-z

## Parent Attitudes, Beliefs, and Understanding about Anxiety (PABUA)

These questions relate to your attitudes and beliefs about your child when he/she is feeling **nervous** or **anxious**. Please indicate the degree to which you agree with each of the following items using the scale below. There are no right or wrong answers. Simply circle your response to each item.

1	2	3	4	5
Strongly disagree	Disagree somewhat	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree somewhat	Strongly agree

1	My child's anxiety will decrease if he/she avoids what makes him/her anxious	1	2	3	4	5
2	My child should be excused from activities that make him/her nervous	1	2	3	4	5
3	A good parent will not push his/her child to do things that makes him/her nervous.	1	2	3	4	5
4	A way to help my child feel less anxious is to encourage him/her to face his/her fears	1	2	3	4	5
5	Anxious children are sensitive and need to be protected	1	2	3	4	5
6	If my child had different parents perhaps he/she would not be so anxious	1	2	3	4	5
7	As a parent I am very limited in how much I can help my child with his/her anxiety	1	2	3	4	5
8	It is hard for me to be with my child when he/she is nervous	1	2	3	4	5
9	I feel uncertain about how to help my child when he/she is anxious.	1	2	3	4	5
10	My child is my best friend	1	2	3	4	5
11	It is important that other people in my child's life (e.g., teachers) do not push him/her to do things that make him/her nervous	1	2	3	4	5
12	A good parent allows their child to have freedom and experience things on their own	1	2	3	4	5
13	I feel uncomfortable when my child feels anxious	1	2	3	4	5
14	It is important that I keep my child safe from his /her worries	1	2	3	4	5
15	My child should not be worried	1	2	3	4	5
16	Children can learn a great deal from their mistakes	1	2	3	4	5
17	It is important that I protect my child from feeling anxious	1	2	3	4	5
18	My child will be traumatized if I push him/her to do something that makes hm/her nervous	1	2	3	4	5
19	If my child is forced to face his/her anxiety it will make it worse	1	2	3	4	5
20	I try not to think about my child's anxiety	1	2	3	4	5
21	It is important for children to see adults cope with anxiety	1	2	3	4	5

Podell, J.L., Benjamin, C.L., Beidas, R.S., Crawley, S., & Kendall, P.C. (2009). Parent Attitudes and Beliefs about Anxiety (PABA). Unpublished measure.

Wolk, C.B., Caporino, N.E., McQuarrie, S., Settapani, C.A., Podell, J.L., Crawley, S., Beidas, R.S., & Kendall, P.C. (2016). Parental Attitudes, Beliefs, and Understanding of Anxiety (PABUA): Development and psychometric properties of a measure. *Journal of Anxiety Disorders*, 39, 71-78.

### CBCL Internalizing scale (School-age children)

Below is a list of items that describe children and youths. For each item that describes your child **now or within the past 6 months**, please circle the **2** if the item is **very true or often true** of your child. Circle the **1** if the item is **somewhat or sometimes true** of your child. If the item is **not true** of your child, circle the **0**. Please answer all items as well as you can, even if some do not seem to apply to your child.

**0 = Not True (as far as you know)**

**1 = Somewhat or Sometimes True**

**2 = Very True or Often True**

- 
- 5. There is very little he/she enjoys
  - 14. Cries a lot
  - 29. Fears certain animals, situations, or places, other than school
  - 30. Fears going to school
  - 31. Fears he/she might think or do something bad
  - 32. Feels he/she has to be perfect
  - 33. Feels or complains that no one loves him/her
  - 35. Feels worthless or inferior
  - 42. Would rather be alone than with others
  - 45. Nervous, highstrung, or tense
  - 47. Has nightmares
  - 49. Constipated, doesn't move bowels
  - 50. Too fearful or anxious
  - 51. Feels dizzy or lightheaded
  - 52. Feels too guilty
  - 54. Overtired without good reason
  - 56. Physical problems **without known medical cause:**
    - a. Aches or pains (**not** stomach or headaches)
    - b. Headaches
    - c. Nausea, feels sick
    - d. Problems with eyes (**not** if corrected by glasses)

- e. Rashes or other skin problems
- f. Stomach aches
- g. Vomiting, throwing up
- 65. Refuses to talk
- 69. Secretive, keeps things to self
- 71. Self-conscious or easily embarrassed
- 75. Too shy or timid
- 91. Talks about killing self
- 102. Underactive, slow moving, or lacks energy
- 103. Unhappy, sad, or depressed
- 111. Withdrawn, doesn't get involved with others
- 112. Worries



### CBCL Internalizing scale (Preschool-age children)

Below is a list of items that describe children and youths. For each item that describes your child *now or within the past 6 months*, please circle the **2** if the item is *very true or often true* of your child. Circle the **1** if the item is *somewhat or sometimes true* of your child. If the item is *not true* of your child, circle the **0**. Please answer all items as well as you can, even if some do not seem to apply to your child.

**0 = Not True (as far as you know)**

**1 = Somewhat or Sometimes True**

**2 = Very True or Often True**

- 
1. Aches or pains (without medical cause; do not include stomach or headaches)
  2. Acts too young for age
  4. Avoids looking others in the eye
  7. Can't stand having things out of place
  10. Clings to adults or too dependent
  12. Constipated, doesn't move bowels (when not sick)
  19. Diarrhoea or loose bowels (when not sick)
  21. Disturbed by any change in routine
  23. Doesn't answer when people talk to him/her
  24. Doesn't eat well
  33. Feelings are easily hurt
  37. Gets too upset when separated from parents
  39. Headaches (without medical cause)
  43. Looks unhappy without good reason
  45. Nausea, feels sick (without medical cause)
  46. Nervous movements or twitching
  47. Nervous, highstrung or tense
  51. Shows panic for no good reason
  52. Painful bowel movements (without medical cause)
  62. Refuses to play active games
  67. Seems unresponsive to affection

- 68. Self-conscious or easily embarrassed
- 70. Shows little affection towards people
- 71. Shows little interest in things around him/her
- 78. Stomach-aches or cramps (without medical cause)
- 79. Rapid shifts between sadness and excitement
- 82. Sudden changes in mood or feelings
- 83. Sulks a lot
- 86. Too concerned with neatness or cleanliness
- 87. Too fearful or anxious
- 90. Unhappy, sad or depressed
- 92. Upset by new people or situations
- 93. Vomiting, throwing up (without medical cause)
- 97. Whining
- 98. Withdrawn, doesn't get involved with others
- 99. Worries

### Weekly coping with parenting stress

During **this difficult situation** regarding your child, how intensely did you feel these emotions (circle the answer that is best for you):

	1 Not at all	2 A little	3 Somewhat	4 Moderately strongly	5 Quite strongly	6 Very strongly	7 Extremely intensely
Stressed (or overwhelmed or unable to cope)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Anxious (or worried or concerned)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Angry (or frustrated, irritated or annoyed)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Sad (or upset or depressed)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Regarding your experience **during the situation**, please rate the truth of these statements for you (circle the answer that is best for you):

	1 Not at all true	2 A little true	3 Somewhat true	4 Moderately true	5 Quite true	6 Very true	7 Extremely true
I experienced my thoughts and/or feelings as events in my mind, rather than as reflections of reality.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
I wished I did not have to deal with what was happening.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
It was unpleasant or uncomfortable to experience my own emotions, and/or watch my child's emotions.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
I paused to notice how I was feeling about the situation, before I did anything else.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Please **very briefly** describe the situation you visualised:

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### Parent feedback questionnaire

1. Which group format did you prefer?      *[Face-to-face / Online]*

2. To what extent did the COVID-19 pandemic affect your ability to benefit from the program?

1 It had a very positive impact	2 It had a moderately positive impact	3 It had a minor positive impact	4 It did not have any impact	5 It had a minor negative impact	6 It had a moderately negative impact	7 It had a very negative impact
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3. How important has the training been for you, overall?

1 Not useful at all	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10 Extremely useful
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4. Do you feel you got something of lasting value or importance as a result of doing this program?      *[Yes / No]*

5. Would you recommend the program to friends or family members?   *[Yes / No]*

6. Please answer the following questions:

1	Has your relationship with your emotions changed?    Yes/No If yes, how? <i>[free text response]</i>
2	Did the program change the way you experience your child?    Yes/No If yes, how has this changed? <i>[free text response]</i>
3	Do you think mindfulness can help you cope with your child’s anxiety?    Yes/No If yes, how do you think it will help? <i>[free text response]</i>
4	Did the mindful parenting program change the way you view your child’s anxiety?    Yes/No If yes, how did it change? <i>[free text response]</i>

## APPENDIX D6

### Demographic characteristics:

		Descriptive Statistics									
		N	Range	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation	Skewness	Kurtosis		
		Statistic	Statistic	Statistic	Statistic	Statistic	Statistic	Statistic	Statistic	Std. Error	Std. Error
Intervention	Parent age in years	11	15	35	50	42.45	4.845	.486	.661	-.681	1.279
	Child_age_pre	11	7	4	11	6.27	1.954	1.401	.661	2.933	1.279
	Valid N (listwise)	11									
Waitlist	Parent age in years	12	13	31	44	37.75	4.673	.055	.637	-1.529	1.232
	Child_age_pre	12	10	3	13	6.00	3.133	1.085	.637	.871	1.232
	Valid N (listwise)	12									

		Independent Samples Test									
		Levene's Test for Equality of Variances					t-test for Equality of Means				
		F	Sig.	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	Std. Error Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference		
									Lower	Upper	
Parent age in years	Equal variances assumed	.110	.743	2.370	21	.027	4.705	1.985	.576	8.833	
Child age in years	Equal variances assumed	2.049	.167	.248	21	.807	.273	1.101	-2.018	2.563	

### Child gender:

#### Group \* Child gender Crosstabulation

Count		Child gender		Total
		Male	Female	
Group	Intervention	5	6	11
	Waitlist	7	5	12
Total		12	11	23

Chi-Square Tests				
	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (1-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	.381 <sup>a</sup>	1	.537	
Continuity Correction <sup>b</sup>	.040	1	.842	
Likelihood Ratio	.382	1	.536	
Fisher's Exact Test				.684
Linear-by-Linear Association	.365	1	.546	
N of Valid Cases	23			

a. 0 cells (.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 5.26.

b. Computed only for a 2x2 table

**Parent relation to child:**

**Group \* Categorised into Mother & Father only Crosstabulation**

Count

		Categorised into Mother & Father only		Total
		1.00	2.00	
Group	Intervention	10	1	11
	Waitlist	11	1	12
Total		21	2	23

**Chi-Square Tests**

	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (1-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	.004 <sup>a</sup>	1	.949		
Continuity Correction <sup>b</sup>	.000	1	1.000		
Likelihood Ratio	.004	1	.949		
Fisher's Exact Test				1.000	.739
Linear-by-Linear Association	.004	1	.950		
N of Valid Cases	23				

a. 2 cells (50.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is .96.

b. Computed only for a 2x2 table

**Caregiver role:**

**Group \* Caregiver status, ie is parent primary carer? Crosstabulation**

Count

		Caregiver status, ie is parent primary carer?			Total
		Yes	No	Shared	
Group	Intervention	6	1	4	11
	Waitlist	9	1	2	12
Total		15	2	6	23

**Chi-Square Tests**

	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	1.226 <sup>a</sup>	2	.542
Likelihood Ratio	1.240	2	.538
Linear-by-Linear Association	1.165	1	.281
N of Valid Cases	23		

a. 4 cells (66.7%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is .96.

**Number of children in family:**

**Group \* Number of children in family Crosstabulation**

Count

		Number of children in family			Total
		One	Two	Three	
Group	Intervention	1	7	3	11
	Waitlist	4	6	2	12
Total		5	13	5	23

**Chi-Square Tests**

	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	2.037 <sup>a</sup>	2	.361
Likelihood Ratio	2.162	2	.339
Linear-by-Linear Association	1.533	1	.216
N of Valid Cases	23		

a. 4 cells (66.7%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 2.39.

**Parent cultural identity:**

**Group \* Parent cultural background Crosstabulation**

Count

		Parent cultural background				
		Australian	UK	Eastern European	Middle Eastern	Total
Group	Intervention	10	0	0	1	11
	Waitlist	10	1	1	0	12
Total		20	1	1	1	23

**Parent highest level of education:**

**Group \* Parent\_education\_simplified Crosstabulation**

Count

		Parent_education_simplified			
		1.00	2.00	3.00	Total
Group	Intervention	9	1	1	11
	Waitlist	10	1	1	12
Total		19	2	2	23

**Chi-Square Tests**

	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	.009 <sup>a</sup>	2	.995
Likelihood Ratio	.009	2	.995
Linear-by-Linear Association	.008	1	.930
N of Valid Cases	23		

a. 4 cells (66.7%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is .96.

**Parent previous mental health diagnosis:**

**Group \* Parent mental health diagnosis Crosstabulation**

Count

		Parent mental health diagnosis		
		Yes	No	Total
Group	Intervention	0	11	11
	Waitlist	3	9	12
Total		3	20	23

**Chi-Square Tests**

	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (1-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	3.163 <sup>a</sup>	1	.075		
Continuity Correction <sup>b</sup>	1.342	1	.247		
Likelihood Ratio	4.316	1	.038		
Fisher's Exact Test				.217	.124
Linear-by-Linear Association	3.025	1	.082		
N of Valid Cases	23				

a. 2 cells (50.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 1.43.

b. Computed only for a 2x2 table

**Parent history of formal mindfulness practice:**

**Group \* Mindfulness hx categorised into yes or no Crosstabulation**

Count

		Mindfulness hx categorised into yes or no		Total
		Yes	No	
Group	Intervention	3	8	11
	Waitlist	5	7	12
Total		8	15	23

**Chi-Square Tests**

	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2- sided)	Exact Sig. (2- sided)	Exact Sig. (1- sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	.524 <sup>a</sup>	1	.469		
Continuity Correction <sup>b</sup>	.082	1	.775		
Likelihood Ratio	.529	1	.467		
Fisher's Exact Test				.667	.389
Linear-by-Linear Association	.501	1	.479		
N of Valid Cases	23				

a. 2 cells (50.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 3.83.

b. Computed only for a 2x2 table

**Parent length of mindfulness practice history:**

**Group \* Mindfulness\_duration\_simplified Crosstabulation**

Count

		Mindfulness_duration_simplified > or equal to 1 year		Total
		< 1 year	> or equal to 1 year	
Group	Intervention	2	1	3
	Waitlist	3	2	5
Total		5	3	8

**Chi-Square Tests**

	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2- sided)	Exact Sig. (2- sided)	Exact Sig. (1- sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	.036 <sup>a</sup>	1	.850		
Continuity Correction <sup>b</sup>	.000	1	1.000		
Likelihood Ratio	.036	1	.850		
Fisher's Exact Test				1.000	.714
Linear-by-Linear Association	.031	1	.860		
N of Valid Cases	8				

a. 4 cells (100.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 1.13.

b. Computed only for a 2x2 table

**Parent frequency of current mindfulness practice:**

**Group \* Mindfulness\_freq\_simplified Crosstabulation**

Count

		Mindfulness_freq_simplified		Total
		< monthly	monthly or more	
Group	Intervention	2	1	3
	Waitlist	3	2	5
Total		5	3	8



**Chi-Square Tests**

	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2- sided)	Exact Sig. (2- sided)	Exact Sig. (1- sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	.036 <sup>a</sup>	1	.850		
Continuity Correction <sup>b</sup>	.000	1	1.000		
Likelihood Ratio	.036	1	.850		
Fisher's Exact Test				1.000	.714
Linear-by-Linear Association	.031	1	.860		
N of Valid Cases	8				

a. 4 cells (100.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 1.13.

**Pre-program differences on outcome variables  
Independent Samples Test**

	Levene's Test for Equality of Variances		t-test for Equality of Means						
	F	Sig.	t	df	Sig. (2- tailed)	Mean Difference	Std. Error Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
								Lower	Upper
Equal variances assumed									
PSS_Total_pre_new	1.469	.239	.074	21	.942	.20455	2.77034	-5.55669	5.96578
CERQ_Adaptive_pre_without22or27	1.500	.234	.349	21	.731	.70455	2.01836	-3.49286	4.90195
CERQ_Maladaptive_pre	2.576	.123	.893	21	.382	1.87121	2.09633	-2.48834	6.23077
IMP_Total_pre_new	.273	.607	.013	21	.990	.07576	5.75853	-11.8997	12.05127
IMP_LFA_pre	.088	.770	.508	21	.617	.46212	.90927	-1.42881	2.35305
IMP_CC_pre	.140	.712	.199	21	.844	.32576	1.63410	-3.07253	3.72405
IMP_NJAPF_Dutch_pre	.194	.664	-.081	21	.936	-.15152	1.86300	-4.02584	3.72281
IMP_EAC_pre	2.552	.125	-1.43	21	.165	-1.04545	.72716	-2.55767	.46676
IMP_EAS_pre	7.127	.014	-1.23	21	.903	-.12879	1.04512	-2.30224	2.04467
IMP_ENRP_pre	.506	.485	.432	21	.670	.61364	1.41934	-2.33805	3.56532
PAB_Overprotection_pre	2.271	.147	.734	21	.471	2.01515	2.74374	-3.69078	7.72108
PAAQ_Total_pre	.592	.450	.584	21	.565	2.76515	4.73538	-7.08260	12.61290
School_CBCL_Internalising_pre	1.405	.259	.949	12	.361	3.45833	3.64528	-4.48404	11.40071
Preschool_CBCL_Internalising_pre	.374	.560	-.117	7	.910	-.66667	5.71964	-14.1914	12.85813

**Pre-program means and standard deviations for outcome variables**

		Descriptive Statistics				
Group		N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
Intervention	IMP_Total_pre	11	74.00	115.00	93.9091	12.27562
	IMP_LFA_pre	11	13.00	20.00	15.5455	2.25227
	IMP_CC_pre	11	17.00	30.00	23.9091	4.27679
	IMP_NJAPF_Dutch_pre	11	12.00	25.00	17.1818	4.75012
	IMP_EAC_pre	11	9.00	13.00	10.4545	1.29334
	IMP_EAS_pre	11	9.00	13.00	11.4545	1.69491
	IMP_ENRP_pre	11	10.00	18.00	15.3636	2.65604

	PSS_Total_pre_new	11	38.00	54.00	44.4545	5.04705
	CERQ_Adaptive_pre_without22or27	11	17.00	31.00	22.4545	5.31721
	CERQ_Maladaptive_pre	11	12.00	36.00	20.4545	6.62365
	PAAQ_Total_pre	11	42.00	73.00	57.1818	9.99818
	PAB_Overprotection_pre	11	20.00	44.00	29.1818	7.79510
	School_CBCL_Internalising_pre	8	5.00	28.00	14.6250	7.72635
	Preschool_CBCL_Internalising_pre	3	8.00	20.00	15.6667	6.65833
	Valid N (listwise)	0				
Waitlist	IMP_Total_pre	12	69.00	119.00	93.8333	15.04438
	IMP_LFA_pre	12	12.00	18.00	15.0833	2.10878
	IMP_CC_pre	12	18.00	29.00	23.5833	3.55370
	IMP_NJAPF_Dutch_pre	12	9.00	22.00	17.3333	4.18511
	IMP_EAC_pre	12	8.00	15.00	11.5000	2.06706
	IMP_EAS_pre	12	7.00	16.00	11.5833	3.05877
	IMP_ENRP_pre	12	8.00	22.00	14.7500	3.95716
	PSS_Total_pre_new	12	28.00	56.00	44.2500	7.80588
	CERQ_Adaptive_pre_without22or27	12	14.00	29.00	21.7500	4.35107
	CERQ_Maladaptive_pre	12	14.00	24.00	18.5833	2.87492
	PAAQ_Total_pre	12	33.00	77.00	54.4167	12.44229
	PAB_Overprotection_pre	12	21.00	38.00	27.1667	5.21943
	School_CBCL_Internalising_pre	6	7.00	19.00	11.1667	5.07609
	Preschool_CBCL_Internalising_pre	6	7.00	30.00	16.3333	8.59457
	Valid N (listwise)	0				

### Mid-program means and standard deviations for outcome variables

		Descriptive Statistics				
Group		N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
Intervention	IMP_Total_mid	11	78.00	114.00	101.4545	10.69919
	IMP_LFA_mid	11	14.00	20.00	16.8182	1.72152
	IMP_CC_mid	11	19.00	29.00	24.8182	3.06001
	IMP_NJAPF_Dutch_mid	11	12.00	25.00	18.5455	4.39007
	IMP_EAC_mid	11	9.00	12.00	10.9091	1.22103
	IMP_EAS_mid	11	9.00	16.00	13.7273	2.00454
	IMP_ENRP_mid	11	10.00	21.00	16.6364	3.10718
	PSS_Total_mid_new	11	33.00	53.00	41.1818	5.49214
	CERQ_Adaptive_mid_without22or27	11	16.00	29.00	22.0909	4.65735
	CERQ_Maladaptive_mid	11	12.00	26.00	17.4545	3.75136
	PAAQ_Total_mid	11	35.00	65.00	48.4545	9.84239
	PAB_Overprotection_mid	11	13.00	37.00	24.6364	6.91770
	School_CBCL_Internalising_mid	8	5.00	18.00	10.6250	4.56501
	Preschool_CBCL_Internalising_mid	3	13.00	25.00	17.3333	6.65833
	Valid N (listwise)	0				
Waitlist	IMP_Total_mid	12	67.00	129.00	96.9167	17.97705
	IMP_LFA_mid	12	11.00	21.00	16.0000	3.10425
	IMP_CC_mid	12	19.00	29.00	23.5833	3.44986
	IMP_NJAPF_Dutch_mid	12	7.00	24.00	17.3333	5.05125
	IMP_EAC_mid	12	7.00	15.00	11.5833	2.35327
	IMP_EAS_mid	12	8.00	18.00	12.8333	3.06989
	IMP_ENRP_mid	12	8.00	25.00	15.5833	4.77605
	PSS_Total_mid_new	12	25.00	56.00	44.2500	8.78144

CERQ_Adaptive_mid_without22or27	12	16.00	27.00	22.1667	3.21455
CERQ_Maladaptive_mid	12	15.00	26.00	19.3333	3.39340
PAAQ_Total_mid	12	36.00	76.00	54.4167	12.77397
PAB_Overprotection_mid	12	19.00	39.00	26.5000	5.91608
School_CBCL_Internalising_mid	5	4.00	21.00	10.6000	7.23187
Preschool_CBCL_Internalising_mid	7	5.00	26.00	14.2857	8.49930
Valid N (listwise)	0				

**Post-program means and standard deviations for outcome variables**

		Descriptive Statistics				
Group		N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
Intervention	IMP_Total_post	10	84.00	120.00	106.4000	11.22695
	IMP_LFA_post	10	15.00	21.00	17.5000	2.01384
	IMP_CC_post	10	18.00	30.00	25.4000	3.92145
	IMP_NJAPF_Dutch_post	10	15.00	26.00	20.5000	3.24037
	IMP_EAC_post	10	10.00	13.00	11.7000	1.05935
	IMP_EAS_post	10	10.00	16.00	14.1000	1.79196
	IMP_ENRP_post	10	13.00	21.00	17.2000	2.61619
	PSS_Total_post_new	10	28.00	48.00	37.3000	6.58365
	CERQ_Adaptive_post_without22or27	10	13.00	33.00	23.3000	7.37940
	CERQ_Maladaptive_post	10	14.00	24.00	17.1000	3.07137
	PAAQ_Total_post	10	23.00	59.00	45.8000	11.15347
	PAB_Overprotection_post	10	15.00	35.00	25.7000	6.18331
	School_CBCL_Internalising_post	7	7.00	18.00	11.8571	3.89138
	Preschool_CBCL_Internalising_post	3	10.00	25.00	15.3333	8.38650
	Valid N (listwise)	0				
Waitlist	IMP_Total_post	9	63.00	121.00	91.6667	16.82260
	IMP_LFA_post	9	12.00	18.00	14.6667	2.12132
	IMP_CC_post	9	20.00	28.00	22.7778	2.90593
	IMP_NJAPF_Dutch_post	9	6.00	22.00	15.7778	5.73973
	IMP_EAC_post	9	10.00	15.00	12.0000	1.41421
	IMP_EAS_post	9	4.00	20.00	11.8889	4.88478
	IMP_ENRP_post	9	7.00	24.00	14.5556	4.58561
	PSS_Total_post_new	9	37.00	51.00	44.6667	3.96863
	CERQ_Adaptive_post_without22or27	9	19.00	25.00	22.0000	2.12132
	CERQ_Maladaptive_post	9	13.00	25.00	18.3333	4.50000
	PAAQ_Total_post	9	46.00	75.00	57.4444	9.19390
	PAB_Overprotection_post	9	17.00	34.00	26.4444	5.89727
	School_CBCL_Internalising_post	4	3.00	29.00	15.5000	10.75484
	Preschool_CBCL_Internalising_post	5	12.00	19.00	15.6000	2.70185
	Valid N (listwise)	0				

**Follow-up means and standard deviations for outcome variables**

		Descriptive Statistics				
Group		N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
Intervention	IMP_Total_fup_new	9	83.00	127.00	108.7778	13.98908
	IMP_LFA_fup	9	15.00	21.00	18.3333	2.23607
	IMP_CC_fup	9	18.00	30.00	25.4444	4.58561
	IMP_NJAPF_Dutch_fup	9	15.00	26.00	21.5556	4.09607
	IMP_EAC_fup	9	9.00	15.00	11.7778	1.85592
	IMP_EAS_fup	9	9.00	17.00	13.7778	2.43812

	IMP_ENRP_fup	9	13.00	22.00	17.8889	3.14024
	PSS_Total_fup_new	9	26.00	42.00	34.0000	4.97494
	CERQ_adaptive_fup_without 22or27	9	17.00	34.00	25.0000	6.24500
	CERQ_Maladaptive_fup	9	14.00	20.00	16.4444	1.94365
	PAAQ_Total_fup	9	28.00	53.00	45.2222	8.37821
	PAB_Overprotection_fup	9	11.00	42.00	25.4444	9.48830
	School_CBCL_Internalising_ fup	6	3.00	15.00	9.5000	4.18330
	Preschool_CBCL_Internalisi ng_fup	3	10.00	19.00	15.0000	4.58258
	Valid N (listwise)	0				
Waitlist	IMP_Total_fup_new	12	71.00	120.00	96.8333	15.00808
	IMP_LFA_fup	12	11.00	20.00	15.3333	2.83912
	IMP_CC_fup	12	20.00	29.00	24.9167	2.87492
	IMP_NJAPF_Dutch_fup	12	10.00	23.00	17.1667	4.21757
	IMP_EAC_fup	12	8.00	15.00	11.5000	1.93061
	IMP_EAS_fup	12	5.00	19.00	12.5833	3.80092
	IMP_ENRP_fup	12	9.00	22.00	15.3333	4.05268
	PSS_Total_fup_new	12	28.00	57.00	43.1667	9.08379
	CERQ_adaptive_fup_without 22or27	12	16.00	31.00	23.5833	4.58175
	CERQ_Maladaptive_fup	12	13.00	24.00	18.0833	3.28795
	PAAQ_Total_fup	12	34.00	72.00	52.4167	11.93511
	PAB_Overprotection_fup	12	21.00	38.00	27.3333	4.79267
	School_CBCL_Internalising_ fup	5	.00	36.00	15.2000	13.55360
	Preschool_CBCL_Internalisi ng_fup	7	5.00	31.00	16.0000	9.60902
	Valid N (listwise)	0				

**Within-group effect sizes**

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
<b>1</b>	<b>Pre-mid within-group effect sizes (T1-T2)</b>														
2		IMP total	LFA	CC	NJAPF	EAC	EAS	ENRP	PSS	CERQ Ada	CERQ Mal	PAAQ	PABUA	CBCL School	CBCL Preschool
3	Mean pre	93.9091	15.5455	23.9091	17.1818	10.4545	11.4545	15.3636	44.45	22.45	20.45	57.18	29.18	14.63	15.67
4	SD pre	12.27562	2.25227	4.27679	4.75012	1.29334	1.69491	2.65604	5.05	5.32	6.62	10	7.8	7.73	6.66
5	Mean mid	101.4545	16.8182	24.8182	18.5455	10.9091	13.7273	16.6364	41.18	22.09	17.45	48.45	24.64	10.63	17.33
6	SD mid	10.69919	1.72152	3.06001	4.39007	1.22103	2.00454	3.10718	5.49	4.66	3.75	9.84	6.92	4.57	6.66
7	SD diff	6.954113	1.534839	2.519489	2.70704	1.136877	2.049776	1.637022	4.460188	4.039332	4.958723	8.922149	4.241243	5.66930557	4.719934086
8	r	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7
9	SD within	8.977721	1.981469	3.252647	3.494773	1.467702	2.646249	2.113387	5.758078	5.214756	6.401684	11.51844	5.475421	7.31904202	6.093408704
10	CMA d within	-0.84046	-0.6423	-0.2795	-0.39021	-0.30974	-0.85888	-0.60226	0.567898	0.069035	0.468627	0.757915	0.82916	0.54651961	-0.272425514
11	Improvement or deterioration	imp.	imp	imp	imp	imp	imp	imp	imp	det	imp	imp	imp	imp.	det
<b>14</b>	<b>Mid-post within-group effect sizes (T2-T3)</b>														
15		IMP total	LFA	CC	NJAPF	EAC	EAS	ENRP	PSS	CERQ Ada	CERQ Mal	PAAQ	PABUA	CBCL School	CBCL Preschool
16	Mean mid	101.4545	16.8182	24.82	18.55	10.9091	13.7273	16.6364	41.18	22.09	17.45	48.45	24.64	10.63	17.33
17	SD mid	10.69919	1.72152	3.06001	4.39007	1.22103	2.00454	3.107	5.49	4.66	3.75	9.84	6.92	4.57	6.66
18	Mean post	106.4	17.5	25.4	20.5	11.7	14.1	14.1	37.3	23.3	17.1	45.8	25.7	11.86	15.33
19	SD post	11.23	2.01	3.92	3.24	1.06	1.79	2.62	6.58	7.38	3.07	11.15	6.18	3.89	8.34
20	SD diff	8.045557	2.051957	1.763834	3.700798	1.218762	1.967573	2.211083	5.328946	4.984186	3.106304	6.61957	4.466902	3.26691403	6.250714245
21	r	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7
22	SD within	10.38677	2.649065	2.2771	4.77771	1.573415	2.540126	2.854496	6.879639	6.434556	4.010221	8.545829	5.766746	4.21756788	8.069637391
23	CMA d within	-0.47613	-0.25737	-0.25471	-0.40815	-0.50266	-0.14672	0.888563	0.563983	-0.18805	0.087277	0.310093	-0.18381	-0.29163727	0.247842611
24	Improvement or deterioration	imp.	imp	imp	imp	imp	imp	imp	imp	imp	imp	imp	det	det	imp
<b>26</b>	<b>Post-follow up within-group effect sizes (T2-T3)</b>														
27		IMP total	LFA	CC	NJAPF	EAC	EAS	ENRP	PSS	CERQ Ada	CERQ Mal	PAAQ	PABUA	CBCL School	CBCL Preschool
28	Mean post	106.4	17.5	25.4	20.5	11.7	14.1	17.2	37.3	23.3	17.1	45.8	25.7	11.86	15.33
29	SD post	11.23	2.01	3.92	3.24	1.06	1.79	2.62	6.58	7.38	3.07	11.15	6.18	3.89	8.34
30	Mean fup	108.78	18.33	25.44	21.56	11.78	13.78	17.89	34	25	16.44	45.22	25.44	9.5	15
31	SD fup	13.99	2.24	4.59	4.1	1.86	2.44	3.14	4.97	6.25	1.94	8.38	9.49	4.18	4.58
32	SD diff	5.244667	1.195033	2.13667	2.970443	1.150447	1.696787	1.914001	5.978447	6.263547	2.572479	6.54297	5.316149	4.67143	7.73559
33	r	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7
34	SD within	6.770836	1.542781	2.758429	3.834825	1.485221	2.190542	2.470964	7.718142	8.086205	3.321056	8.446938	6.863119	6.03078522	9.986598162
35	CMA d within	-0.35151	-0.53799	-0.0145	-0.27641	-0.05386	0.146083	-0.27924	0.427564	-0.21023	0.198732	0.068664	0.037884	0.39132549	0.033044285
36	Improvement or deterioration	imp.	imp	imp	imp	imp	det	imp	imp	imp	imp	imp	imp	imp	imp

38	Pre-post within-group effect sizes (T1-T3)														
39	IMP total	LFA	CC	NJAPF	EAC	EAS	ENRP	PSS	CERQ Ada	CERQ Mal	PAAQ	PABUA	CBCL School	CBCL Preschool	
40	Mean pre	93.91	15.55	23.91	17.18	10.45	11.45	15.36	44.45	22.45	20.45	57.18	29.18	14.63	15.67
41	SD pre	12.28	2.25	4.28	4.75	1.29	1.69	2.66	5.05	5.32	6.62	10	7.8	7.73	6.66
42	Mean post	106.4	17.5	25.4	20.5	11.7	14.1	17.2	37.3	23.3	17.1	45.8	25.7	11.86	15.33
43	SD post	11.23	2.01	3.92	3.24	1.06	1.79	2.62	6.58	7.38	3.07	11.15	6.18	3.89	8.34
44	SD diff	10.11079	2.258188	2.404917	3.947758	1.249561	2.193824	2.120631	6.21449	4.147852	5.520297	11.50998	6.250146	8.12515734	8.246211251
45	r	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7
46	SD within	13.05297	2.915309	3.104734	5.096534	1.613177	2.832215	2.737723	8.022872	5.354854	7.126673	14.85931	8.068904	10.489533	10.64581295
47	CMA d within	-0.95687	-0.66888	-0.47991	-0.65142	-0.77487	-0.93566	-0.67209	0.891202	-0.15873	0.470065	0.76585	0.431285	0.26407277	0.031937439
48	Improvement or deterioration	imp.	imp	imp	imp	imp	imp	imp	imp	imp	imp	imp	imp	imp.	imp
49															
50	Pre-follow up within-group effect sizes (T1-T4)														
51	IMP total	LFA	CC	NJAPF	EAC	EAS	ENRP	PSS	CERQ Ada	CERQ Mal	PAAQ	PABUA	CBCL School	CBCL Preschool	
52	Mean pre	93.91	15.55	23.91	17.18	10.45	11.45	15.36	44.45	22.45	20.45	57.18	29.18	14.63	15.67
53	SD pre	12.28	2.25	4.28	4.75	1.29	1.69	2.66	5.05	5.32	6.62	10	7.8	7.73	6.66
54	Mean fup	108.78	18.33	25.44	21.56	11.78	13.78	17.89	34	25	16.44	45.22	25.44	9.5	15
55	SD fup	13.99	2.24	4.59	4.1	1.86	2.44	3.14	4.97	6.25	1.94	8.38	9.49	4.18	4.58
56	SD diff	10.04798	2.63764	2.481359	3.45791	1.325573	2.015417	2.111195	6.887186	6.281871	5.683309	10.75706	6.951875	9.87006493	2.713136766
57	r	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7
58	SD within	12.97189	3.405178	3.203421	4.464143	1.711307	2.601892	2.725541	8.891319	8.109861	7.33712	13.8873	8.974833	12.742199	3.502644504
59	CMA d within	-1.14633	-0.8164	-0.47761	-0.98115	-0.77718	-0.8955	-0.92826	1.175304	-0.31443	0.546536	0.861218	0.416721	0.40259927	0.191284042
60	Improvement or deterioration	imp.	imp	imp	imp	imp	imp	imp	imp	imp	imp	imp	imp	imp.	imp

## Between-group effect sizes (I/v=Intervention; Ctl = Control)

### Baseline (T1) effect sizes

H7 $=ABS((B7-E7)/SQRT(((D7-1)*C7^2+(G7-1)*F7^2))/((D7+G7)-2))$								
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
4	<i>Instructions: Enter the values in the grey cells below.</i>						<i>Cohen's d calculated with the formula above</i>	
5								
6		<b>Pre I/v Mean</b>	<b>SD 1</b>	<b>N 1</b>	<b>Pre Ctl Mean 2</b>	<b>SD 2</b>	<b>N 2</b>	<b>d</b>
7	IMP Total	93.91	12.28	11	93.83	15.04	12	0.01
8	LFA	15.55	2.25	11	15.08	2.11	12	0.22
9	CC	23.91	4.28	11	23.58	3.55	12	0.08
10	NJAPF	17.18	4.75	11	17.33	4.19	12	0.03
11	EAC	10.45	1.29	11	11.50	2.07	12	0.60
12	EAS	11.45	1.69	11	11.58	3.06	12	0.05
13	ENRP	15.36	2.66	11	14.75	3.96	12	0.18
14	PSS	44.45	5.05	11	44.25	7.81	12	0.03
15	PAAQ	57.18	10	11	54.42	12.44	12	0.24
16	PABUA	29.18	7.80	11	27.17	5.22	12	0.31
17	CERQ Adaptive	22.45	5.32	11	21.75	4.35	12	0.14
18	CERQ Maladaptive	20.45	6.62	11	18.58	2.87	12	0.37
19	CBCL School	14.63	7.73	8	11.17	5.08	6	0.51
20	CBCL Preschool	15.67	6.66	3	16.33	8.59	6	0.08
21								



Post-program (T1-T3) effect sizes; controlling for baseline

Q4 =O4*(H4/P4)																	
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q
		I/v M post	I/v M pre	I/v M diff	Ctl M post	Ctl M pre	Ctl M diff	T1-T3 diff	I/v n pre	I/v SD pre	Ctl n pre	Ctl SD pre	SD s added	I/v n + Ctl n	Bias correctio	SD pre pooled	d (pre-post controlled)
4	IMP Total	106.4	93.91	12.49	91.67	93.83	-2.16	14.65	11	12.28	12	15.04	3996.20	21	0.96	13.79	1.024
5	LFA	17.5	15.55	1.95	14.67	15.08	-0.41	2.36	11	2.25	12	2.11	99.60	21	0.96	2.18	1.044
6	CC	25.4	23.91	1.49	22.78	23.58	-0.8	2.29	11	4.28	12	3.55	321.81	21	0.96	3.91	0.564
7	NJAPF	20.5	17.18	3.32	15.78	17.33	-1.55	4.87	11	4.75	12	4.19	418.74	21	0.96	4.47	1.051
8	EAC	11.7	10.45	1.25	12	11.5	0.5	0.75	11	1.29	12	2.07	63.77	21	0.96	1.74	0.415
9	EAS	14.1	11.45	2.65	11.89	11.58	0.31	2.34	11	1.69	12	3.06	131.56	21	0.96	2.50	0.901
10	ENRP	17.2	15.36	1.84	14.56	14.75	-0.19	2.03	11	2.66	12	3.96	243.25	21	0.96	3.40	0.575
11	PSS	37.3	44.45	-7.15	44.67	44.25	0.42	-7.57	11	5.05	12	7.81	925.98	21	0.96	6.64	-1.099
12	CERQ Adaptive	23.3	22.45	0.85	22	21.75	0.25	0.6	11	5.32	12	4.35	491.17	21	0.96	4.84	0.120
13	CERQ Maladapt	17.1	20.45	-3.35	18.33	18.58	-0.25	-3.1	11	6.62	12	2.87	528.85	21	0.96	5.02	-0.595
14	PAAQ	45.8	57.18	-11.38	57.44	54.42	3.02	-14.4	11	10	12	12.44	2702.29	21	0.96	11.34	-1.224
15	PABUA	25.7	29.18	-3.48	26.44	27.17	-0.73	-2.75	11	7.8	12	5.22	908.13	21	0.96	6.58	-0.403
16	CBCL School	11.86	14.63	-2.77	15.5	11.17	4.33	-7.1	11	7.73	12	5.08	881.40	21	0.96	6.48	-1.056
17	CBCL Preschool	15.33	15.67	-0.34	15.6	16.33	-0.73	0.39	11	6.66	12	8.59	1255.23	21	0.96	7.73	0.049

Follow-up (T1-T4) effect sizes; controlling for baseline

		I/v M fup	I/v M pre	I/v M diff	Ctl M fup	Ctl M pre	Ctl M diff	T1-T4 diff	I/v n pre	I/v SD pre	Ctl n pre	Ctl SD pre	SD s added	I/v n + Ctl n	Bias correctio	SD pre pooled	d (pre-post controlled)
22	IMP Total	108.78	93.91	14.87	96.83	93.83	3	11.87	11	12.28	12	15.04	3996.20	21	0.96	13.79	0.829
23	LFA	18.33	15.55	2.78	15.33	15.08	0.25	2.53	11	2.25	12	2.11	99.60	21	0.96	2.18	1.120
24	CC	25.44	23.91	1.53	24.92	23.58	1.34	0.19	11	4.28	12	3.55	321.81	21	0.96	3.91	0.047
25	NJAPF	21.56	17.18	4.38	17.17	17.33	-0.16	4.54	11	4.75	12	4.19	418.74	21	0.96	4.47	0.980
26	EAC	11.78	10.45	1.33	11.5	11.5	0	1.33	11	1.29	12	2.07	63.77	21	0.96	1.74	0.736
27	EAS	13.78	11.45	2.33	12.58	11.58	1	1.33	11	1.69	12	3.06	131.56	21	0.96	2.50	0.512
28	ENRP	17.89	15.36	2.53	15.33	14.75	0.58	1.95	11	2.66	12	3.96	243.25	21	0.96	3.40	0.552
29	PSS	34	44.45	-10.45	43.17	44.25	-1.08	-9.37	11	5.05	12	7.81	925.98	21	0.96	6.64	-1.360
30	CERQ Adaptive	25	22.45	2.55	23.58	21.75	1.83	0.72	11	5.32	12	4.35	491.17	21	0.96	4.84	0.143
31	CERQ Maladapt	16.44	20.45	-4.01	18.08	18.58	-0.5	-3.51	11	6.62	12	2.87	528.85	21	0.96	5.02	-0.674
32	PAAQ	45.22	57.18	-11.96	52.42	54.42	-2	-9.96	11	10	12	12.44	2702.29	21	0.96	11.34	-0.846
33	PABUA	25.44	29.18	-3.74	27.33	27.17	0.16	-3.9	11	7.8	12	5.22	908.13	21	0.96	6.58	-0.572
34	CBCL School	9.5	14.63	-5.13	15.2	11.17	4.03	-9.16	11	7.73	12	5.08	881.40	21	0.96	6.48	-1.363
35	CBCL Preschool	15	15.67	-0.67	16	16.33	-0.33	-0.34	11	6.66	12	8.59	1255.23	21	0.96	7.73	-0.042



**Weekly coping with stress data:**

**Intensity of stress**

**Descriptive Statistics**

	Mean	Std. Deviation	N
W1_Intensity_stress	4.1818	1.40130	11
W2_Intensity_stress	2.8000	1.32665	11
W3_Intensity_stress	2.3764	.62250	11
W4_Intensity_stress	2.5564	1.01105	11
W5_Intensity_stress	2.3327	1.26491	11
W6_Intensity_stress	3.0000	1.18322	11
W7_Intensity_stress	3.8582	1.63882	11
W8_Intensity_stress	2.8891	1.22020	11

**Mauchly's Test of Sphericity<sup>a</sup>**

Measure: MEASURE\_1

Within Subjects Effect	Mauchly's W	Approx. Chi-Square	df	Sig.	Greenhouse-Geisser	Epsilon Huynh-Feldt	Lower-bound
Week	.006	38.514	27	.103	.589	1.000	.143

Tests the null hypothesis that the error covariance matrix of the orthonormalized transformed dependent variables is proportional to an identity matrix.

a. Design: Intercept

Within Subjects Design: Week

**Tests of Within-Subjects Effects**

Measure: MEASURE\_1

Source	Type III Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.	Partial Eta Squared
Week Sphericity Assumed	35.381	7	5.054	3.380	.004	.253
Error(Week) Sphericity Assumed	104.682	70	1.495			

**Tests of Within-Subjects Contrasts**

Measure: MEASURE\_1

Source	Week	Type III Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.	Partial Eta Squared
Week	Linear	.292	1	.292	.100	.759	.010
	Quadratic	15.893	1	15.893	17.788	.002	.640
	Cubic	13.552	1	13.552	38.717	.000	.795
Error(Week)	Linear	29.267	10	2.927			
	Quadratic	8.935	10	.893			
	Cubic	3.500	10	.350			

**Experiential avoidance**

**Descriptive Statistics**

	Mean	Std. Deviation	N
W1_Exp_avoidance	5.0000	1.09545	11
W2_Exp_avoidance	4.1500	1.34257	11
W3_Exp_avoidance	3.3118	.99844	11
W4_Exp_avoidance	3.0000	1.00000	11
W5_Exp_avoidance	2.3891	.94281	11
W6_Exp_avoidance	2.6418	1.27895	11
W7_Exp_avoidance	3.4291	.90633	11
W8_Exp_avoidance	2.6673	1.02470	11

**Mauchly's Test of Sphericity<sup>a</sup>**

Measure: MEASURE\_1

Within Subjects Effect	Mauchly's W	Approx. Chi-Square	df	Sig.	Greenhouse-Geisser	Epsilon Huynh-Feldt	Lower-bound
Week	.010	34.220	27	.214	.503	.809	.143

Tests the null hypothesis that the error covariance matrix of the orthonormalized transformed dependent variables is proportional to an identity matrix.

a. Design: Intercept

Within Subjects Design: Week

**Tests of Within-Subjects Effects**

Measure: MEASURE\_1

Source		Type III Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.	Partial Eta Squared
Week	Sphericity Assumed	59.160	7	8.451	7.139	.000	.417
Error(Week)	Sphericity Assumed	82.863	70	1.184			

**Tests of Within-Subjects Contrasts**

Measure: MEASURE\_1

Source	Week	Type III Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.	Partial Eta Squared
Week	Linear	33.308	1	33.308	13.640	.004	.577
	Quadratic	17.704	1	17.704	35.990	.000	.783
	Cubic	1.603	1	1.603	1.736	.217	.148
Error(Week)	Linear	24.419	10	2.442			
	Quadratic	4.919	10	.492			
	Cubic	9.231	10	.923			

**Self-regulation**

**Descriptive Statistics**

	Mean	Std. Deviation	N
W1_Self_regulation	2.7273	1.61808	11
W2_Self_regulation	3.0000	1.61245	11
W3_Self_regulation	3.8764	.94208	11
W4_Self_regulation	5.1109	1.75752	11
W5_Self_regulation	3.2218	1.24722	11
W6_Self_regulation	3.1418	1.13389	11
W7_Self_regulation	4.0000	1.54919	11
W8_Self_regulation	4.0000	1.34164	11

**Mauchly's Test of Sphericity<sup>a</sup>**

Measure: MEASURE\_1

Within Subjects Effect	Mauchly's W	Approx. Chi-Square	df	Sig.	Greenhouse-Geisser	Epsilon Huynh-Feldt	Lower-bound
Week	.049	22.473	27	.766	.606	1.000	.143

Tests the null hypothesis that the error covariance matrix of the orthonormalized transformed dependent variables is proportional to an identity matrix.

a. Design: Intercept

Within Subjects Design: Week

**Tests of Within-Subjects Effects**

Measure: MEASURE\_1

Source		Type III Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.	Partial Eta Squared
Week	Sphericity Assumed	45.586	7	6.512	3.400	.003	.254
Error(Week)	Sphericity Assumed	134.084	70	1.915			

**Tests of Within-Subjects Contrasts**

Measure: MEASURE\_1

Source	Week	Type III Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.	Partial Eta Squared
Week	Linear	6.309	1	6.309	6.373	.030	.389
	Quadratic	4.873	1	4.873	1.446	.257	.126
	Cubic	9.026	1	9.026	7.056	.024	.414
Error(Week)	Linear	9.900	10	.990			
	Quadratic	33.694	10	3.369			
	Cubic	12.792	10	1.279			

## Decentering from mental events

### Descriptive Statistics

	Mean	Std. Deviation	N
W1_Mental_events	3.6364	1.36182	11
W2_Mental_events	2.9000	1.75784	11
W3_Mental_events	2.5000	1.18322	11
W4_Mental_events	3.4436	1.27367	11
W5_Mental_events	3.0000	1.67332	11
W6_Mental_events	2.0000	1.09545	11
W7_Mental_events	3.0000	1.00000	11
W8_Mental_events	2.8891	1.29957	11

### Mauchly's Test of Sphericity<sup>a</sup>

Measure: MEASURE\_1

Within Subjects Effect	Mauchly's W	Approx. Chi-Square	df	Sig.	Epsilon		
					Greenhouse-Geisser	Huynh-Feldt	Lower-bound
Week	.018	29.862	27	.391	.543	.919	.143

Tests the null hypothesis that the error covariance matrix of the orthonormalized transformed dependent variables is proportional to an identity matrix.

a. Design: Intercept

Within Subjects Design: Week

### Tests of Within-Subjects Effects

Measure: MEASURE\_1

Source		Type III Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.	Partial Eta Squared
Week	Sphericity Assumed	20.067	7	2.867	1.980	.070	.165
Error(Week)	Sphericity Assumed	101.333	70	1.448			

### Tests of Within-Subjects Contrasts

Measure: MEASURE\_1

Source	Week	Type III Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.	Partial Eta Squared
Week	Linear	2.917	1	2.917	1.071	.325	.097
	Quadratic	2.248	1	2.248	3.635	.086	.267
	Cubic	.034	1	.034	.031	.863	.003
Error(Week)	Linear	27.242	10	2.724			
	Quadratic	6.185	10	.618			
	Cubic	10.816	10	1.082			

**Reliable change analysis:**

**Pre-Post program**

B10      fx      =B9/B8													
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
1	<b>IMP Total</b>												
2	Subjects:	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	#8	#9	#10	#11	
3	Mean pre	98	115	74	93	89	107	83	96	78	101	99	
4	Mean post	107	117	84	100		120	118	105	96	104	113	
5	SD pre	12.28	12.28	12.28	12.28	12.28	12.28	12.28	12.28	12.28	12.28	12.28	
6	Cronbach alpha	0.93	0.93	0.93	0.93	0.93	0.93	0.93	0.93	0.93	0.93	0.93	
7	SEM	3.248983	3.248983	3.248983	3.248983	3.248983	3.248983	3.248983	3.248983	3.248983	3.248983	3.248983	
8	Sdiff	4.594755	4.594755	4.594755	4.594755	4.594755	4.594755	4.594755	4.594755	4.594755	4.594755	4.594755	
9	Pre-post change	-9	-2	-10	-7		-13	-35	-9	-18	-3	-14	
10	RC value	-1.95876	-0.43528	-2.17639	-1.52348		-2.82931	-7.61738	-1.95876	-3.91751	-0.65292	-3.04695	
11	RESULTS: reliable improvement in 7 parents; improvement in 3 parents, missing data for 1 parent												
12													
13	<b>IMP LFA</b>												
14	Subjects:	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	#8	#9	#10	#11	
15	Mean pre	15	18	16	16	17	14	13	13	13	16	20	
16	Mean post	19	19	15	16		18	19	17	15	16	21	
17	SD pre	2.25	2.25	2.25	2.25	2.25	2.25	2.25	2.25	2.25	2.25	2.25	
18	Cronbach alpha	0.72	0.72	0.72	0.72	0.72	0.72	0.72	0.72	0.72	0.72	0.72	
19	SEM	1.190588	1.190588	1.190588	1.190588	1.190588	1.190588	1.190588	1.190588	1.190588	1.190588	1.190588	
20	Sdiff	1.683746	1.683746	1.683746	1.683746	1.683746	1.683746	1.683746	1.683746	1.683746	1.683746	1.683746	
21	Pre-post change	-4	-1	1	0		-4	-6	-4	-2	0	-1	
22	RC value	-2.37566	-0.59391	0.593914	0		-2.37566	-3.56348	-2.37566	-1.18783	0	-0.59391	
23	RESULTS: reliable improvement in 4 parents; improvement in 3 parents, deterioration in 1 parent, no change in 2 parents, missing data for 1 parent												

25	<b>IMP CC</b>												
26	Subjects:	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	#8	#9	#10	#11	
27	Mean pre	29	30	17	27	21	24	23	26	17	24	25	
28	Mean post	30	27	18	27		29	29	25	20	24	25	
29	SD pre	4.28	4.28	4.28	4.28	4.28	4.28	4.28	4.28	4.28	4.28	4.28	
30	Cronbach alpha	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	
31	SEM	1.353455	1.353455	1.353455	1.353455	1.353455	1.353455	1.353455	1.353455	1.353455	1.353455	1.353455	
32	Sdiff	1.914074	1.914074	1.914074	1.914074	1.914074	1.914074	1.914074	1.914074	1.914074	1.914074	1.914074	
33	Pre-post change	-1	3	-1	0		-5	-6	1	-3	0	0	
34	RC value	-0.52245	1.567337	-0.52245	0		-2.61223	-3.13467	0.522446	-1.56734	0	0	
35	RESULTS: reliable improvement in 2 parents; improvement in 3 parents, no change in 3 parents,												
36	deterioration in 2 parents; missing data for 1 parent												
37													
38	<b>IMP NJAPF</b>												
39	Subjects:	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	#8	#9	#10	#11	
40	Mean pre	16	24	12	13	17	25	13	19	16	22	12	
41	Mean post	17	24	18	15		26	22	21	21	21	20	
42	SD pre	4.75	4.75	4.75	4.75	4.75	4.75	4.75	4.75	4.75	4.75	4.75	
43	Cronbach alpha	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	
44	SEM	1.839667	1.839667	1.839667	1.839667	1.839667	1.839667	1.839667	1.839667	1.839667	1.839667	1.839667	
45	Sdiff	2.601682	2.601682	2.601682	2.601682	2.601682	2.601682	2.601682	2.601682	2.601682	2.601682	2.601682	
46	Pre-post change	-1	0	-6	-2		-1	-9	-2	-5	1	-8	
47	RC value	-0.38437	0	-2.3062	-0.76873		-0.38437	-3.4593	-0.76873	-1.92183	0.384367	-3.07493	
48	RESULTS: reliable improvement in 3 parents; improvement in 5 parents, no change in 1 parent,												
49	deterioration in 1 parent; missing data for 1 parent												

51	<b>IMP EAC</b>											
52	Subjects:	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	#8	#9	#10	#11
53	Mean pre	11	12	10	9	9	13	10	10	11	9	11
54	Mean post	12	12	10	10		12	13	12	12	11	13
55	SD pre	1.29	1.29	1.29	1.29	1.29	1.29	1.29	1.29	1.29	1.29	1.29
56	Cronbach alpha	0.69	0.69	0.69	0.69	0.69	0.69	0.69	0.69	0.69	0.69	0.69
57	SEM	0.718242	0.718242	0.718242	0.718242	0.718242	0.718242	0.718242	0.718242	0.718242	0.718242	0.718242
58	Sdiff	1.015747	1.015747	1.015747	1.015747	1.015747	1.015747	1.015747	1.015747	1.015747	1.015747	1.015747
59	Pre-post change	-1	0	0	-1		1	-3	-2	-1	-2	-2
60	RC value	-0.9845	0	0	-0.9845		0.984497	-2.95349	-1.96899	-0.9845	-1.96899	-1.96899
61	RESULTS: reliable improvement in 4 parents; improvement in 3 parents, no change in 2 parents, deterioration in 1 parent,											
62	missing data for 1 parent											
64	<b>IMP EAS</b>											
65	Subjects:	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	#8	#9	#10	#11
66	Mean pre	13	13	9	12	10	13	10	11	9	13	13
67	Mean post	14	16	10	14		16	15	15	13	15	13
68	SD pre	1.69	1.69	1.69	1.69	1.69	1.69	1.69	1.69	1.69	1.69	1.69
69	Cronbach alpha	0.81	0.81	0.81	0.81	0.81	0.81	0.81	0.81	0.81	0.81	0.81
70	SEM	0.736654	0.736654	0.736654	0.736654	0.736654	0.736654	0.736654	0.736654	0.736654	0.736654	0.736654
71	Sdiff	1.041786	1.041786	1.041786	1.041786	1.041786	1.041786	1.041786	1.041786	1.041786	1.041786	1.041786
72	Pre-post change	-1	-3	-1	-2		-3	-5	-4	-4	-2	0
73	RC value	-0.95989	-2.87967	-0.95989	-1.91978		-2.87967	-4.79945	-3.83956	-3.83956	-1.91978	0
74	RESULTS: reliable improvement in 5 parents; improvement in 4 parents, no change in 1 parent, missing data for 1 parent											
75												
76	<b>IMP ENRP</b>											
77	Subjects:	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	#8	#9	#10	#11
78	Mean pre	14	18	10	16	15	18	14	17	12	17	18
79	Mean post	15	19	13	18		19	20	15	15	17	21
80	SD pre	2.66	2.66	2.66	2.66	2.66	2.66	2.66	2.66	2.66	2.66	2.66
81	Cronbach alpha	0.91	0.91	0.91	0.91	0.91	0.91	0.91	0.91	0.91	0.91	0.91
82	SEM	0.798	0.798	0.798	0.798	0.798	0.798	0.798	0.798	0.798	0.798	0.798
83	Sdiff	1.128542	1.128542	1.128542	1.128542	1.128542	1.128542	1.128542	1.128542	1.128542	1.128542	1.128542
84	Pre-post change	-1	-1	-3	-2		-1	-6	2	-3	0	-3
85	RC value	-0.8861	-0.8861	-2.6583	-1.7722		-0.8861	-5.31659	1.772197	-2.6583	0	-2.6583
86	RESULTS: reliable improvement in 4 parents; improvement in 4 parents, no change in 1 parent, deterioration in 1 parent; missing data for 1 parent											
88	<b>PSS</b>											
89	Subjects:	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	#8	#9	#10	#11
90	Mean pre	41	38	47	54	44	41	38	42	50	47	47
91	Mean post	34	33	40	48		28	31	44	43	40	32
92	SD pre	5.05	5.05	5.05	5.05	5.05	5.05	5.05	5.05	5.05	5.05	5.05
93	Cronbach alpha	0.74	0.74	0.74	0.74	0.74	0.74	0.74	0.74	0.74	0.74	0.74
94	SEM	2.575005	2.575005	2.575005	2.575005	2.575005	2.575005	2.575005	2.575005	2.575005	2.575005	2.575005
95	Sdiff	3.641607	3.641607	3.641607	3.641607	3.641607	3.641607	3.641607	3.641607	3.641607	3.641607	3.641607
96	Pre-post change	7	5	7	6		13	7	-2	7	7	15
97	RC value	1.922228	1.37302	1.922228	1.647624		3.569853	1.922228	-0.54921	1.922228	1.922228	4.119061
98	RESULTS: 2 parents reliably improved; 7 improved; 1 worsened; 1 data missing											
99												
100	<b>CERQ Adaptive</b>											
101	Subjects:	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	#8	#9	#10	#11
102	Mean pre	19	27	19	29	23	17	31	19	17	28	18
103	Mean post	16	33	13	31		25	33	18	17	26	21
104	SD pre	5.32	5.32	5.32	5.32	5.32	5.32	5.32	5.32	5.32	5.32	5.32
105	Cronbach alpha	0.74	0.74	0.74	0.74	0.74	0.74	0.74	0.74	0.74	0.74	0.74
106	SEM	2.712678	2.712678	2.712678	2.712678	2.712678	2.712678	2.712678	2.712678	2.712678	2.712678	2.712678
107	Sdiff	3.836307	3.836307	3.836307	3.836307	3.836307	3.836307	3.836307	3.836307	3.836307	3.836307	3.836307
108	Pre-post change	3	-6	6	-2		-8	-2	1	0	2	-3
109	RC value	0.782002	-1.564	1.564004	-0.52133		-2.08534	-0.52133	0.260667	0	0.521335	-0.782
110	RESULTS: reliable improvement in 1 parents; improvement in 4 parents, no change in 1 parent, deterioration in 4 parents,											
111	missing data for 1 parent											

113	<b>CERQ Maladaptive</b>											
114	Subjects:	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	#8	#9	#10	#11
115	Mean pre	19	19	36	21	20	17	28	22	16	12	15
116	Mean post	16	16	17	24		17	21	14	15	15	16
117	SD pre	6.62	6.62	6.62	6.62	6.62	6.62	6.62	6.62	6.62	6.62	6.62
118	Cronbach alpha	0.83	0.83	0.83	0.83	0.83	0.83	0.83	0.83	0.83	0.83	0.83
119	SEM	2.729496	2.729496	2.729496	2.729496	2.729496	2.729496	2.729496	2.729496	2.729496	2.729496	2.729496
120	Sdiff	3.86009	3.86009	3.86009	3.86009	3.86009	3.86009	3.86009	3.86009	3.86009	3.86009	3.86009
121	Pre-post change	3	3	19	-3		0	7	8	1	-3	-1
122	RC value	0.777184	0.777184	4.922165	-0.77718		0	1.813429	2.07249	0.259061	-0.77718	-0.25906
123	RESULTS: reliable improvement in 2 parents; improvement in 4 parents, no change in 1 parent, deterioration in 3 parents,											
124	missing data for 1 parent											
125												
126	<b>PAAQ</b>											
127	Subjects:	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	#8	#9	#10	#11
128	Mean pre	58	42	73	66	60	47	56	50	63	46	68
129	Mean post	49	40	59	45		36	23	57	53	41	55
130	SD pre	2.49	2.49	2.49	2.49	2.49	2.49	2.49	2.49	2.49	2.49	2.49
131	Cronbach alpha	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8
132	SEM	1.113562	1.113562	1.113562	1.113562	1.113562	1.113562	1.113562	1.113562	1.113562	1.113562	1.113562
133	Sdiff	1.574814	1.574814	1.574814	1.574814	1.574814	1.574814	1.574814	1.574814	1.574814	1.574814	1.574814
134	Pre-post change	9	2	14	21		11	33	-7	10	5	13
135	RC value	5.71496	1.269991	8.889937	13.33491		6.984951	20.95485	-4.44497	6.349955	3.174978	8.254942
136	RESULTS: reliable change in 8 parents, improvement in 1 parent; reliable deterioration in 1 parent, 1 missing data											
138	<b>PABUA</b>											
139	Subjects:	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	#8	#9	#10	#11
140	Mean pre	32	22	38	20	25	24	38	23	27	28	44
141	Mean post	34	20	27	23		25	15	22	30	26	35
142	SD pre	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.8
143	Cronbach alpha	0.79	0.79	0.79	0.79	0.79	0.79	0.79	0.79	0.79	0.79	0.79
144	SEM	3.574409	3.574409	3.574409	3.574409	3.574409	3.574409	3.574409	3.574409	3.574409	3.574409	3.574409
145	Sdiff	5.054978	5.054978	5.054978	5.054978	5.054978	5.054978	5.054978	5.054978	5.054978	5.054978	5.054978
146	Pre-post change	-2	2	11	-3		-1	23	1	-3	2	9
147	RC value	-0.39565	0.39565	2.176073	-0.59347		-0.19782	4.549971	0.197825	-0.59347	0.39565	1.780423
148	RESULTS: 2 parents reliably improved; 4 parents improved; 4 deteriorated; 1 missing data											
149												
150	<b>CBCL School Internalizing</b>											
151	Subjects:	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	#8	#9	#10	#11
152	Mean pre		12	22	19	9	9	28		5	13	
153	Mean post		11	16	18		9	7		10	12	
154	SD pre		7.73	7.73	7.73	7.73	7.73	7.73		7.73	7.73	
155	Cronbach alpha		0.83	0.83	0.83	0.83	0.83	0.83		0.83	0.83	
156	SEM		3.187161	3.187161	3.187161	3.187161	3.187161	3.187161		3.187161	3.187161	
157	Sdiff		4.507326	4.507326	4.507326	4.507326	4.507326	4.507326		4.507326	4.507326	
158	Pre-post change		1	6	1		0	21		-5	1	
159	RC value		0.221861	1.331166	0.221861		0	4.659082		-1.10931	0.221861	
160	RESULTS: reliable improvement in 1 parent; improvement in 4 parents, no change in 1 parent, deterioration in 1 parent,											
161	missing data for 1 parent (n=8)											
163	<b>CBCL Preschool internalizing</b>											
164	Subjects:	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	#8	#9	#10	#11
165	Mean pre	8							19			20
166	Mean post	10							25			11
167	SD pre	6.66							6.66			6.66
168	Cronbach alpha	0.84							0.84			0.84
169	SEM	2.664							2.664			2.664
170	Sdiff	3.767465							3.767465			3.767465
171	Pre-post change	-2							-6			9
172	RC value	-0.53086							-1.59258			2.388874
173	RESULTS: reliable improvement in 1 parent; deterioration in 2 parents (n = 3)											



**Pre-follow up program**

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L
1	<b>IMP Total</b>											
2	Subjects:	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	#8	#9	#10	#11
3	Mean pre	98	115	74	93	89	107	83	96	78	101	99
4	Mean fup	111	121	83			117	127	114	91	108	107
5	SD pre	12.28	12.28	12.28	12.28	12.28	12.28	12.28	12.28	12.28	12.28	12.28
6	Cronbach alpha	0.93	0.93	0.93	0.93	0.93	0.93	0.93	0.93	0.93	0.93	0.93
7	SEM	3.248983	3.248983	3.248983	3.248983	3.248983	3.248983	3.248983	3.248983	3.248983	3.248983	3.248983
8	Sdiff	4.594755	4.594755	4.594755	4.594755	4.594755	4.594755	4.594755	4.594755	4.594755	4.594755	4.594755
9	Pre-fup change	-13	-6	-9			-10	-44	-18	-13	-7	-8
10	RC value	-2.82931	-1.30584	-1.95876			-2.17639	-9.57614	-3.91751	-2.82931	-1.52348	-1.74112
11	RESULTS: reliable improvement in 6 parents; improvement in 3 parents, missing data for 2 parent											
12												
13	<b>IMP LFA</b>											
14	Subjects:	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	#8	#9	#10	#11
15	Mean pre	15	18	16	16	17	14	13	13	13	16	20
16	Mean fup	21	20	17			18	20	16	15	17	21
17	SD pre	2.25	2.25	2.25	2.25	2.25	2.25	2.25	2.25	2.25	2.25	2.25
18	Cronbach alpha	0.72	0.72	0.72	0.72	0.72	0.72	0.72	0.72	0.72	0.72	0.72
19	SEM	1.190588	1.190588	1.190588	1.190588	1.190588	1.190588	1.190588	1.190588	1.190588	1.190588	1.190588
20	Sdiff	1.683746	1.683746	1.683746	1.683746	1.683746	1.683746	1.683746	1.683746	1.683746	1.683746	1.683746
21	Pre-fup change	-6	-2	-1			-4	-7	-3	-2	-1	-1
22	RC value	-3.56348	-1.18783	-0.59391			-2.37566	-4.1574	-1.78174	-1.18783	-0.59391	-0.59391
23	RESULTS: reliable improvement in 3 parents; improvement in 6 parents, missing data 2 parents											
24												
25	<b>IMP CC</b>											
26	Subjects:	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	#8	#9	#10	#11
27	Mean pre	29	30	17	27	21	24	23	26	17	24	25
28	Mean fup	30	27	18			27	30	30	19	24	24
29	SD pre	4.28	4.28	4.28	4.28	4.28	4.28	4.28	4.28	4.28	4.28	4.28
30	Cronbach alpha	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9
31	SEM	1.353455	1.353455	1.353455	1.353455	1.353455	1.353455	1.353455	1.353455	1.353455	1.353455	1.353455
32	Sdiff	1.914074	1.914074	1.914074	1.914074	1.914074	1.914074	1.914074	1.914074	1.914074	1.914074	1.914074
33	Pre-fup change	-1	3	-1			-3	-7	-4	-2	0	1
34	RC value	-0.52245	1.567337	-0.52245			-1.56734	-3.65712	-2.08978	-1.04489	0	0.522446
35	RESULTS: reliable improvement in 2 parents; improvement in 4 parents, no change in 1 parents,											
36	deterioration in 2 parents; missing data for 2 parents											
37												
38	<b>IMP NJAPF</b>											
39	Subjects:	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	#8	#9	#10	#11
40	Mean pre	16	24	12	13	17	25	13	19	16	22	12
41	Mean fup	20	25	15			25	24	26	18	24	17
42	SD pre	4.75	4.75	4.75	4.75	4.75	4.75	4.75	4.75	4.75	4.75	4.75
43	Cronbach alpha	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85
44	SEM	1.839667	1.839667	1.839667	1.839667	1.839667	1.839667	1.839667	1.839667	1.839667	1.839667	1.839667
45	Sdiff	2.601682	2.601682	2.601682	2.601682	2.601682	2.601682	2.601682	2.601682	2.601682	2.601682	2.601682
46	Pre-fup change	-4	-1	-3			0	-11	-7	-2	-2	-5
47	RC value	-1.53747	-0.38437	-1.1531			0	-4.22803	-2.69057	-0.76873	-0.76873	-1.92183
48	RESULTS: reliable improvement in 2 parents; improvement in 6 parents, no change in 1 parent, missing data for 2 parents											
49												
50	<b>IMP EAC</b>											
51	Subjects:	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	#8	#9	#10	#11
52	Mean pre	11	12	10	9	9	13	10	10	11	9	11
53	Mean fup	11	12	11			14	15	10	12	9	12
54	SD pre	1.29	1.29	1.29	1.29	1.29	1.29	1.29	1.29	1.29	1.29	1.29
55	Cronbach alpha	0.69	0.69	0.69	0.69	0.69	0.69	0.69	0.69	0.69	0.69	0.69
56	SEM	0.718242	0.718242	0.718242	0.718242	0.718242	0.718242	0.718242	0.718242	0.718242	0.718242	0.718242
57	Sdiff	1.015747	1.015747	1.015747	1.015747	1.015747	1.015747	1.015747	1.015747	1.015747	1.015747	1.015747
58	Pre-fup change	0	0	-1			-1	-5	0	-1	0	-1
59	RC value	0	0	-0.9845			-0.9845	-4.92249	0	-0.9845	0	-0.9845
60	RESULTS: reliable improvement in 1 parent; improvement in 4 parents, no change in 4 parents, missing data for 2 parents											

62	<b>IMP EAS</b>											
63	Subjects:	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	#8	#9	#10	#11
64	Mean pre	13	13	9	12	10	13	10	11	9	13	13
65	Mean fup	15	15	9			15	17	15	11	14	13
66	SD pre	1.69	1.69	1.69	1.69	1.69	1.69	1.69	1.69	1.69	1.69	1.69
67	Cronbach alpha	0.81	0.81	0.81	0.81	0.81	0.81	0.81	0.81	0.81	0.81	0.81
68	SEM	0.736654	0.736654	0.736654	0.736654	0.736654	0.736654	0.736654	0.736654	0.736654	0.736654	0.736654
69	Sdiff	1.041786	1.041786	1.041786	1.041786	1.041786	1.041786	1.041786	1.041786	1.041786	1.041786	1.041786
70	Pre-fup change	-2	-2	0			-2	-7	-4	-2	-1	0
71	RC value	-1.91978	-1.91978	0			-1.91978	-6.71923	-3.83956	-1.91978	-0.95989	0
72	RESULTS: reliable improvement in 2 parents; improvement in 5 parents, no change in 2 parents, missing data for 2 parents											

74	<b>IMP ENRP</b>											
75	Subjects:	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	#8	#9	#10	#11
76	Mean pre	14	18	10	16	15	18	14	17	12	17	18
77	Mean fup	14	22	13			18	21	17	16	20	20
78	SD pre	2.66	2.66	2.66	2.66	2.66	2.66	2.66	2.66	2.66	2.66	2.66
79	Cronbach alpha	0.91	0.91	0.91	0.91	0.91	0.91	0.91	0.91	0.91	0.91	0.91
80	SEM	0.798	0.798	0.798	0.798	0.798	0.798	0.798	0.798	0.798	0.798	0.798
81	Sdiff	1.128542	1.128542	1.128542	1.128542	1.128542	1.128542	1.128542	1.128542	1.128542	1.128542	1.128542
82	Pre-fup change	0	-4	-3			0	-7	0	-4	-3	-2
83	RC value	0	-3.54439	-2.6583			0	-6.20269	0	-3.54439	-2.6583	-1.7722
84	RESULTS: reliable improvement in 5 parents; improvement in 1 parent, no change in 3 parents, missing data 2 parents											

86	<b>PSS</b>											
87	Subjects:	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	#8	#9	#10	#11
88	Mean pre	41	38	47	54	44	41	38	42	50	47	47
89	Mean fup	36	32	30			31	26	35	40	42	34
90	SD pre	5.05	5.05	5.05	5.05	5.05	5.05	5.05	5.05	5.05	5.05	5.05
91	Cronbach alpha	0.74	0.74	0.74	0.74	0.74	0.74	0.74	0.74	0.74	0.74	0.74
92	SEM	2.575005	2.575005	2.575005	2.575005	2.575005	2.575005	2.575005	2.575005	2.575005	2.575005	2.575005
93	Sdiff	3.641607	3.641607	3.641607	3.641607	3.641607	3.641607	3.641607	3.641607	3.641607	3.641607	3.641607
94	Pre-fup change	5	6	17			10	12	7	10	5	13
95	RC value	1.37302	1.647624	4.668269			2.746041	3.295249	1.922228	2.746041	1.37302	3.569853
96	RESULTS: 5 parents reliably improved; 4 improved; 2 data missing											
97												

98	<b>CERQ Adaptive</b>											
99	Subjects:	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	#8	#9	#10	#11
100	Mean pre	19	27	19	29	23	17	31	19	17	28	18
101	Mean fup	32	27	18			25	34	29	17	18	25
102	SD pre	5.32	5.32	5.32	5.32	5.32	5.32	5.32	5.32	5.32	5.32	5.32
103	Cronbach alpha	0.74	0.74	0.74	0.74	0.74	0.74	0.74	0.74	0.74	0.74	0.74
104	SEM	2.712678	2.712678	2.712678	2.712678	2.712678	2.712678	2.712678	2.712678	2.712678	2.712678	2.712678
105	Sdiff	3.836307	3.836307	3.836307	3.836307	3.836307	3.836307	3.836307	3.836307	3.836307	3.836307	3.836307
106	Pre-fup change	-13	0	1			-8	-3	-10	0	10	-7
107	RC value	-3.38868	0	0.260667			-2.08534	-0.782	-2.60667	0	2.606674	-1.82467
108	RESULTS: reliable improvement in 3 parents; improvement 2 parents, no change 2 parent, deterioration 1 parent,											
109	reliable deterioration 1 parent, missing data 2 parents											

111	<b>CERQ Maladaptive</b>											
112	Subjects:	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	#8	#9	#10	#11
113	Mean pre	19	19	36	21	20	17	28	22	16	12	15
114	Mean fup	20	19	16			15	16	15	16	17	14
115	SD pre	6.62	6.62	6.62	6.62	6.62	6.62	6.62	6.62	6.62	6.62	6.62
116	Cronbach alpha	0.83	0.83	0.83	0.83	0.83	0.83	0.83	0.83	0.83	0.83	0.83
117	SEM	2.729496	2.729496	2.729496	2.729496	2.729496	2.729496	2.729496	2.729496	2.729496	2.729496	2.729496
118	Sdiff	3.86009	3.86009	3.86009	3.86009	3.86009	3.86009	3.86009	3.86009	3.86009	3.86009	3.86009
119	Pre-fup change	-1	0	20			2	12	7	0	-5	1
120	RC value	-0.25906	0	5.181226			0.518123	3.108736	1.813429	0	-1.29531	0.259061
121	RESULTS: reliable improvement in 2 parents; improvement in 3 parents, no change in 2 parent, deterioration in 2 parents,											
122	missing data 2 parents											



124	<b>PAAQ</b>											
125	Subjects:	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	#8	#9	#10	#11
126	Mean pre	58	42	73	66	60	47	56	50	63	46	68
127	Mean fup	48	36	50			46	28	43	53	50	53
128	SD pre	2.49	2.49	2.49	2.49	2.49	2.49	2.49	2.49	2.49	2.49	2.49
129	Cronbach alpha	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8
130	SEM	1.113562	1.113562	1.113562	1.113562	1.113562	1.113562	1.113562	1.113562	1.113562	1.113562	1.113562
131	Sdiff	1.574814	1.574814	1.574814	1.574814	1.574814	1.574814	1.574814	1.574814	1.574814	1.574814	1.574814
132	Pre-fup change	10	6	23			1	28	7	10	-4	15
133	RC value	6.349955	3.809973	14.6049			0.634996	17.77987	4.444969	6.349955	-2.53998	9.524933
134	RESULTS: reliable change in 7 parents, improvement in 1 parent; reliable deterioration in 1 parent, 2 missing data											
135												
136	<b>PABUA</b>											
137	Subjects:	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	#8	#9	#10	#11
138	Mean pre	32	22	38	20	25	24	38	23	27	28	44
139	Mean fup	33	24	33			24	11	16	26	20	42
140	SD pre	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.8
141	Cronbach alpha	0.79	0.79	0.79	0.79	0.79	0.79	0.79	0.79	0.79	0.79	0.79
142	SEM	3.574409	3.574409	3.574409	3.574409	3.574409	3.574409	3.574409	3.574409	3.574409	3.574409	3.574409
143	Sdiff	5.054978	5.054978	5.054978	5.054978	5.054978	5.054978	5.054978	5.054978	5.054978	5.054978	5.054978
144	Pre-fup change	-1	-2	5			0	27	7	1	8	2
145	RC value	-0.19782	-0.39565	0.989124			0	5.34127	1.384774	0.197825	1.582598	0.39565
146	RESULTS: 1 parent reliably improved; 5 parents improved; 2 deteriorated; 1 no change; 2 missing data											
147												
148	<b>CBCL School Internalizing</b>											
149	Subjects:	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	#8	#9	#10	#11
150	Mean pre		12	22	19	9	9	28		5	13	
151	Mean fup		3	15			9	9		8	13	
152	SD pre		7.73	7.73	7.73	7.73	7.73	7.73		7.73	7.73	
153	Cronbach alpha		0.83	0.83	0.83	0.83	0.83	0.83		0.83	0.83	
154	SEM		3.187161	3.187161	3.187161	3.187161	3.187161	3.187161		3.187161	3.187161	
155	Sdiff		4.507326	4.507326	4.507326	4.507326	4.507326	4.507326		4.507326	4.507326	
156	Pre-fup change		9	7			0	19		-3	0	
157	RC value		1.996749	1.553027			0	4.21536		-0.66558	0	
158	RESULTS: reliable improvement in 2 parents; improvement in 1 parents, no change in 2 parent, deterioration in 1 parent, missing data											
159	2 parents (n=8)											
160												
161	<b>CBCL Preschool internalizing</b>											
162	Subjects:	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	#8	#9	#10	#11
163	Mean pre	8							19			20
164	Mean fup	10							19			16
165	SD pre	6.66							6.66			6.66
166	Cronbach alpha	0.84							0.84			0.84
167	SEM	2.664							2.664			2.664
168	Sdiff	3.767465							3.767465			3.767465
169	Pre-fup change	-2							0			4
170	RC value	-0.53086							0			1.061722
171	RESULTS: improvement in 1 parent; no change in 1 parent; deterioration in 1 parent (n=3)											