

# Understanding Influences of Parenting on Children's Behavior During Dental Visits

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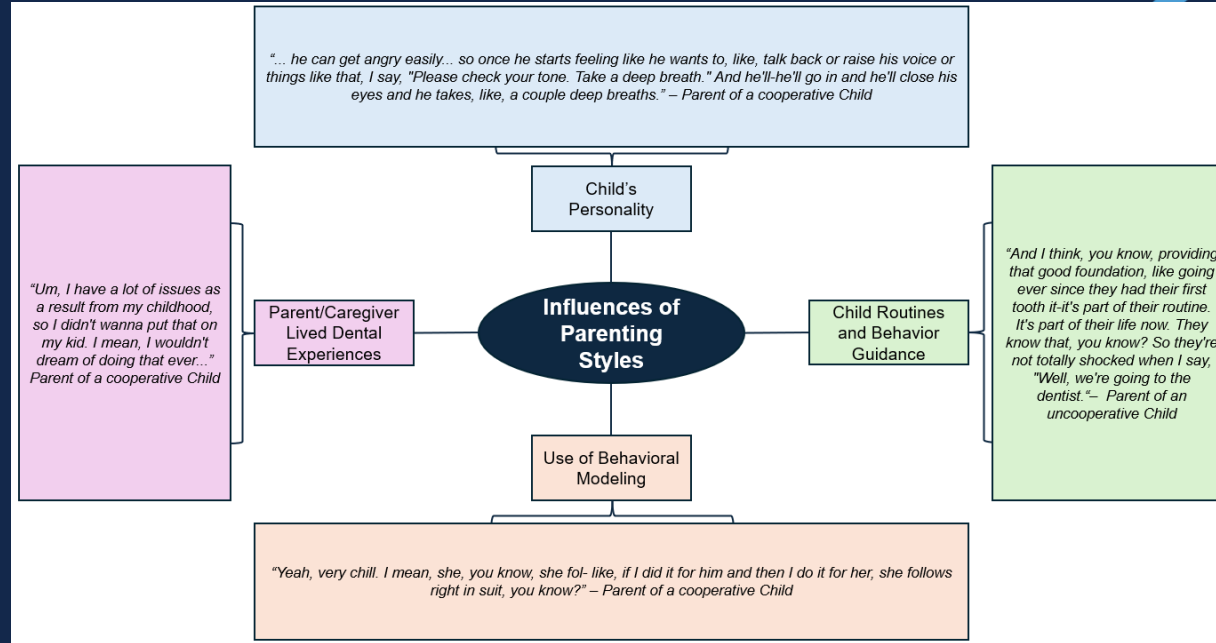
## BACKGROUND

- Substantial evidence has linked parenting styles, and specifically the **authoritative** parenting style, to overall health and dental outcomes.
- We sought to elucidate mechanisms explaining the influences of parenting styles on children's behavior during dental visits.

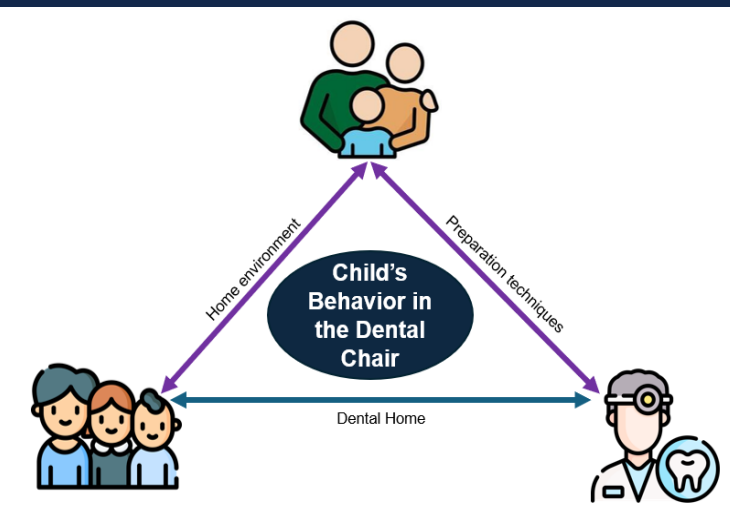
## METHODS

- Selection of 13 English-speaking children (3-6.y.o) with no SHCNs and recruitment of their parent/caregiver.
- Written survey, including the Parenting Styles and Dimensions Questionnaire (PSDQ-SF).
- Semi-structured recorded phone interview.
- Children's cooperation level (Frankl Scale) extracted from most recent dental visit.
- Interviews transcribed and coded using Dedoose. Thematic analysis conducted.

## RESULTS



Characteristic	Frequency		
<b>Parent's Gender</b>			
Male	1		
Female	12		
<b>Child's Gender</b>			
Boy	5		
Girl	8		
<b>Parent-reported Child's Race</b>			
African American	5		
White	3		
More than One	3		
Other	1		
<b>Parent-reported Child's Ethnicity</b>			
Hispanic/Latino(a)	3		
Non-Hispanic/Latino(a)	10		
<b>Number of Children in the Household</b>			
1	3		
2	7		
3 or more	3		
<b>Parenting Style</b>			
Authoritative (followed by permissive)	12		
Authoritative (followed by authoritarian)	1		
<b>Frankl Score</b>			
1 (definitely uncooperative)	1		
2 (uncooperative)	4		
3 (cooperative)	1		
4 (definitely cooperative)	7		
<b>Parenting Style</b>			
Authoritative (Followed by permissive)	n	Cooperative	Uncooperative
Connection Dimension (Warmth & Support)	3	2	1
Regulation Dimension (Reasoning/Induction)	3	2	1
Autonomy Grading Dimension (Democratic Participation)	2	1	1
Connection and Regulation	3	2	1
Regulation and Autonomy Grading	1	0	1
<b>Authoritative (Followed by authoritarian)</b>			
Regulation Dimension (Reasoning/Induction)	1	1	0



## CONCLUSIONS

- There were differences in P/C preparation between the uncooperative and cooperative groups.
- Several techniques that P/Cs reported to prepare their children for dental procedures are closely related to basic behavioral approaches that pediatric dentists use.
- Importance of creating materials to help train P/Cs to prepare their children for dental visits and encouraging providers to ask how parents reinforce behavior at home.
- Further research can explore different age groups, and the impact of cultural norms.

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