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## Externalizing Behaviors and Minor Unintentional Injuries in Toddlers: Common Risk Factors?

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## Abstract

**Objective** To investigate predictors for externalizing behaviors and minor unintentional injuries in toddlers and to examine whether common risk factors can be identified. **Methods** Linear regression models were used to investigate the contributions of predictors belonging to the domains of child characteristics and parental characteristics. Participants were 117 boys ( $M = 16.9$  months) and their parents. **Results** Two common risk factors for externalizing behaviors and minor injuries were identified: maternal low conscientiousness and paternal low self-control. In addition, children's inhibitory control and dispositional frustration as well as maternal externalizing symptoms contributed independently to children's externalizing behaviors. **Conclusions** Results supply some evidence for the interrelatedness of negative outcomes and on


the existence of common risk factors. Interventions could aim to address these common risk factors in order to pursue a number of goals at the same time, instead of focusing on only one type of negative outcome.

**Key words:** externalizing behaviors; minor injuries; parental personality; parental psychopathology; temperament; toddlers.

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