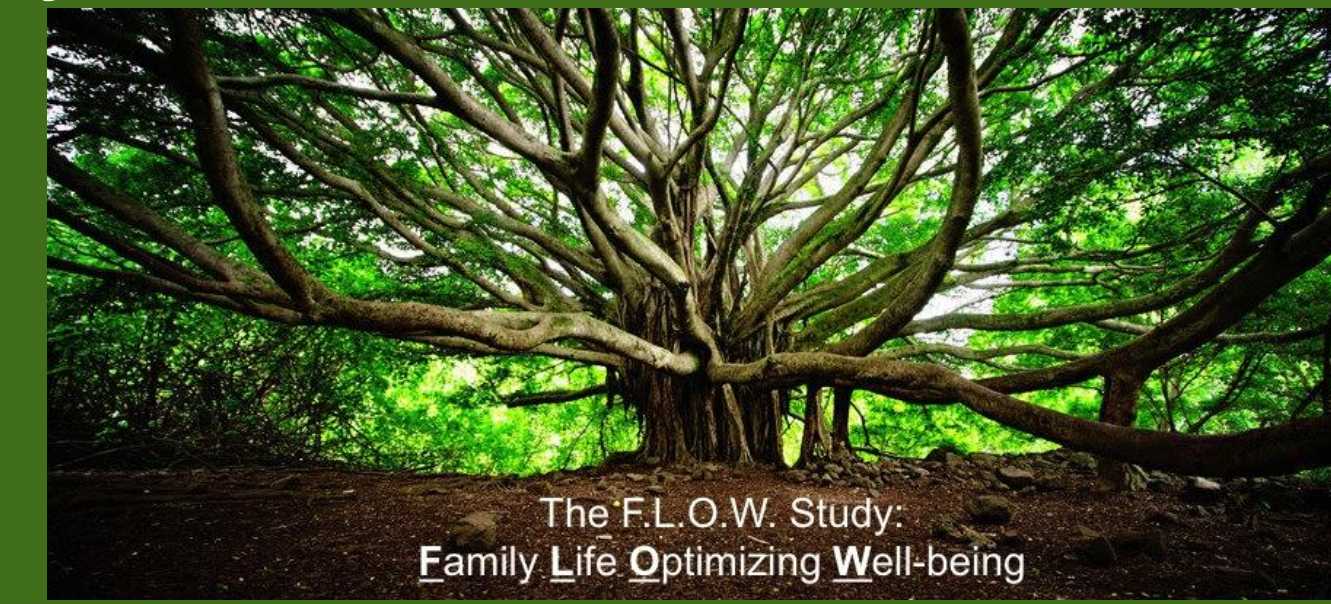


Impact of Positive Marital Conflict Resolution on Youth Connectedness through Parenting Quality Over Time



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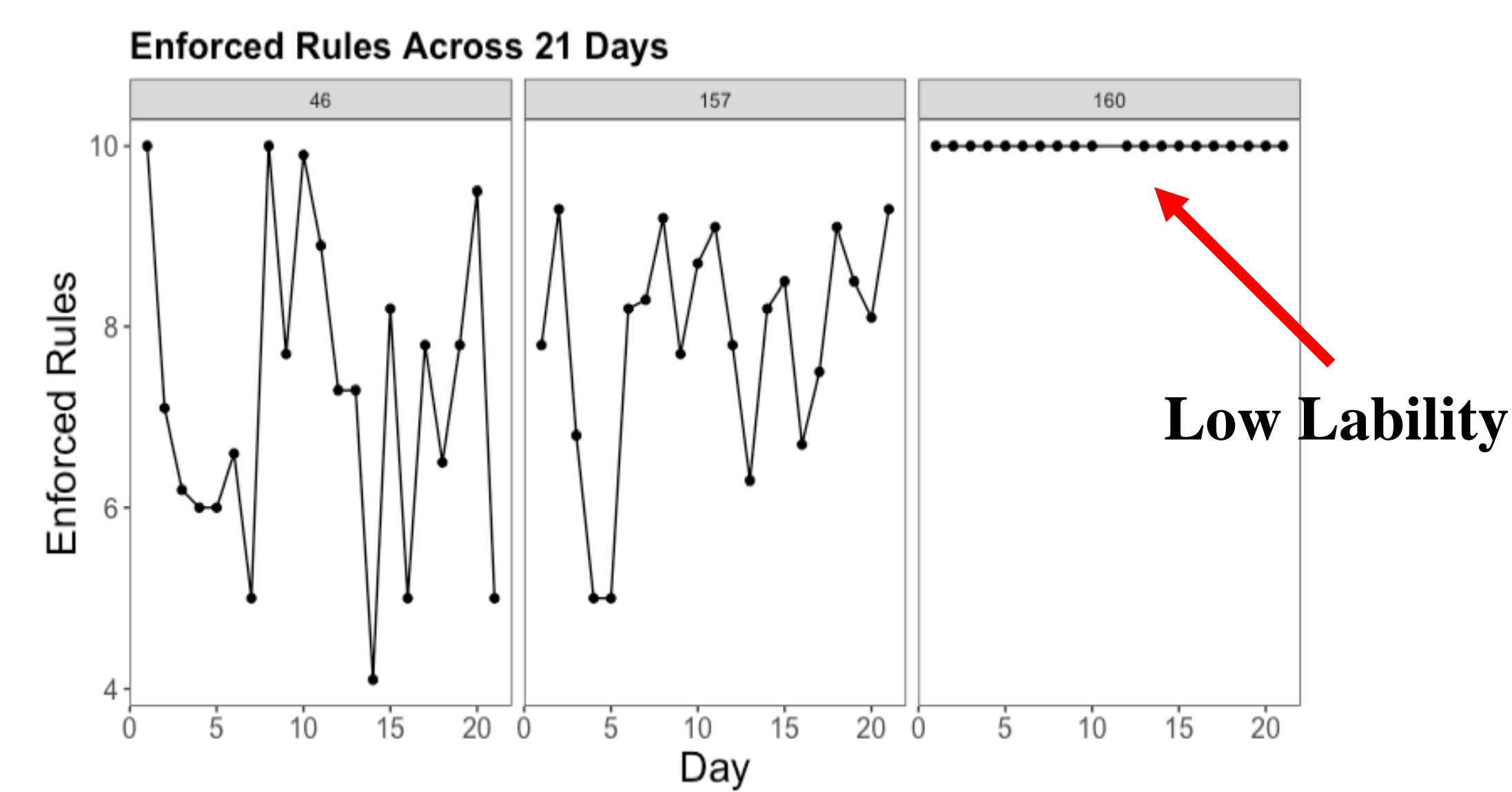
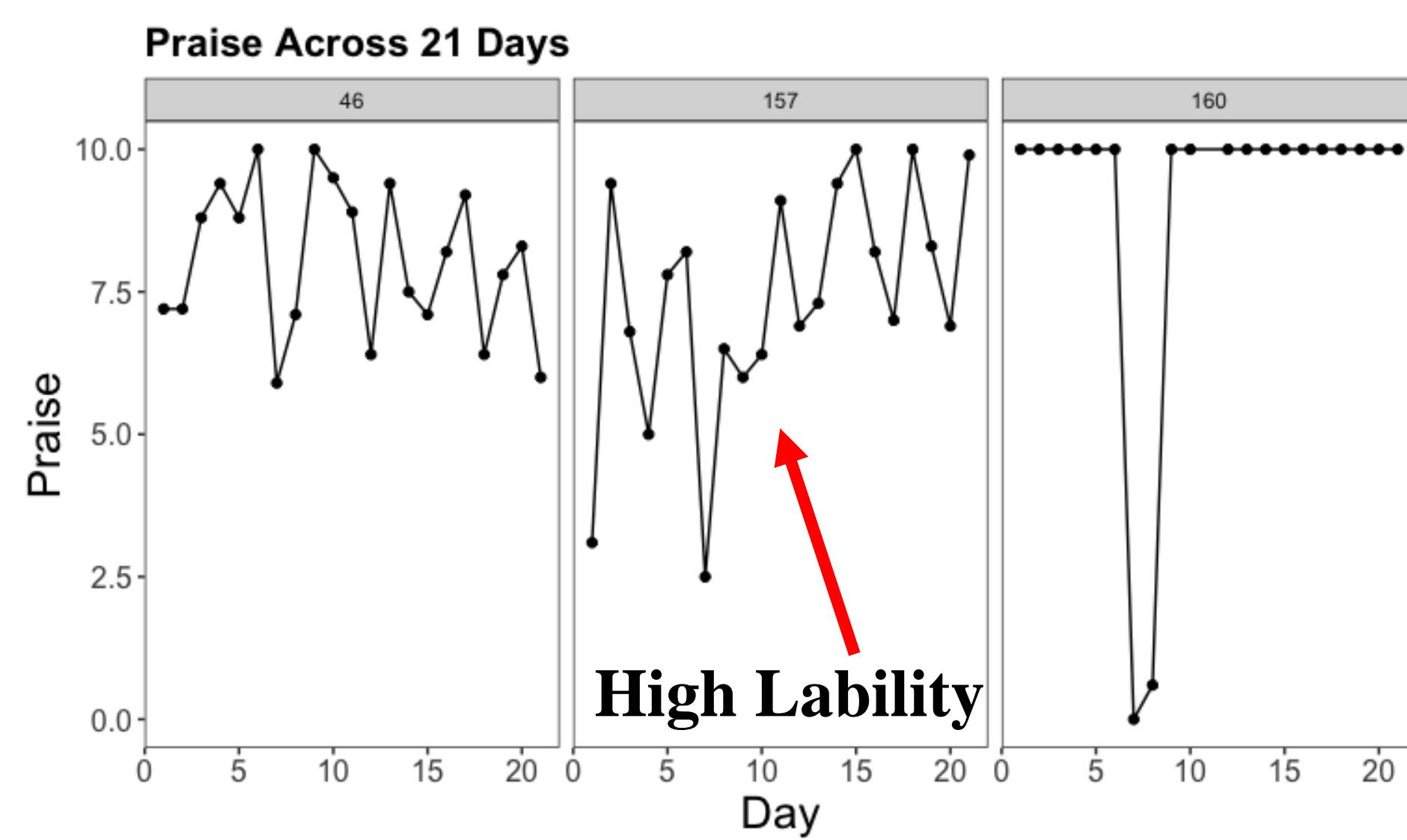


BACKGROUND

Previous literature has shown a relationship between marital quality and the parent-child relationship and youth outcomes (e.g., Gerard, Krishnakumar, & Buehler, 2006; Harold, Osborne, & Conger, 1997). Mechanisms include:

- Spillover process (Erel & Burman, 1995)
- Compensatory process (Belsky & Fearon, 2004)
- Positive parenting (e.g., praise) has a positive impact on negative youth outcomes
- Negative parenting (e.g., inconsistent discipline) has a negative impact on negative youth outcomes

- (1) Less work on the effects of conflict resolution on parenting behaviors and youth outcomes
- (2) No consideration for the nuance of day to day changes (lability) on parenting behaviors and how that impacts youth outcomes



Current Study

- (1) Using daily diary methods, we examined whether positive conflict resolution impacts daily parenting behaviors, both mean level and lability
- (2) Whether the association between positive conflict resolution and youth connectedness and youth adjustment is mediated by parenting behavior.

PARTICIPANTS

151 two-caregiver households.
Youth: 59.6% female, *M* age at baseline: 14.75(.72), 82.8% Caucasian
Primary caregiver: 95.4% female, *M* age at baseline: 43.42(6.88)
 89.4% Caucasian, Married 88.7%
 3.3% Asian American, Living Together 6%
 3.3% Multiethnic or Other, Single 4%
 2.6% African American, Divorced/Separated 1.4%
 1.3% Asian American

RESULTS

Association between Positive Interparental Conflict Resolution on Youth Connectedness with Parent Mediated by Mean Level Parenting and Parenting Lability

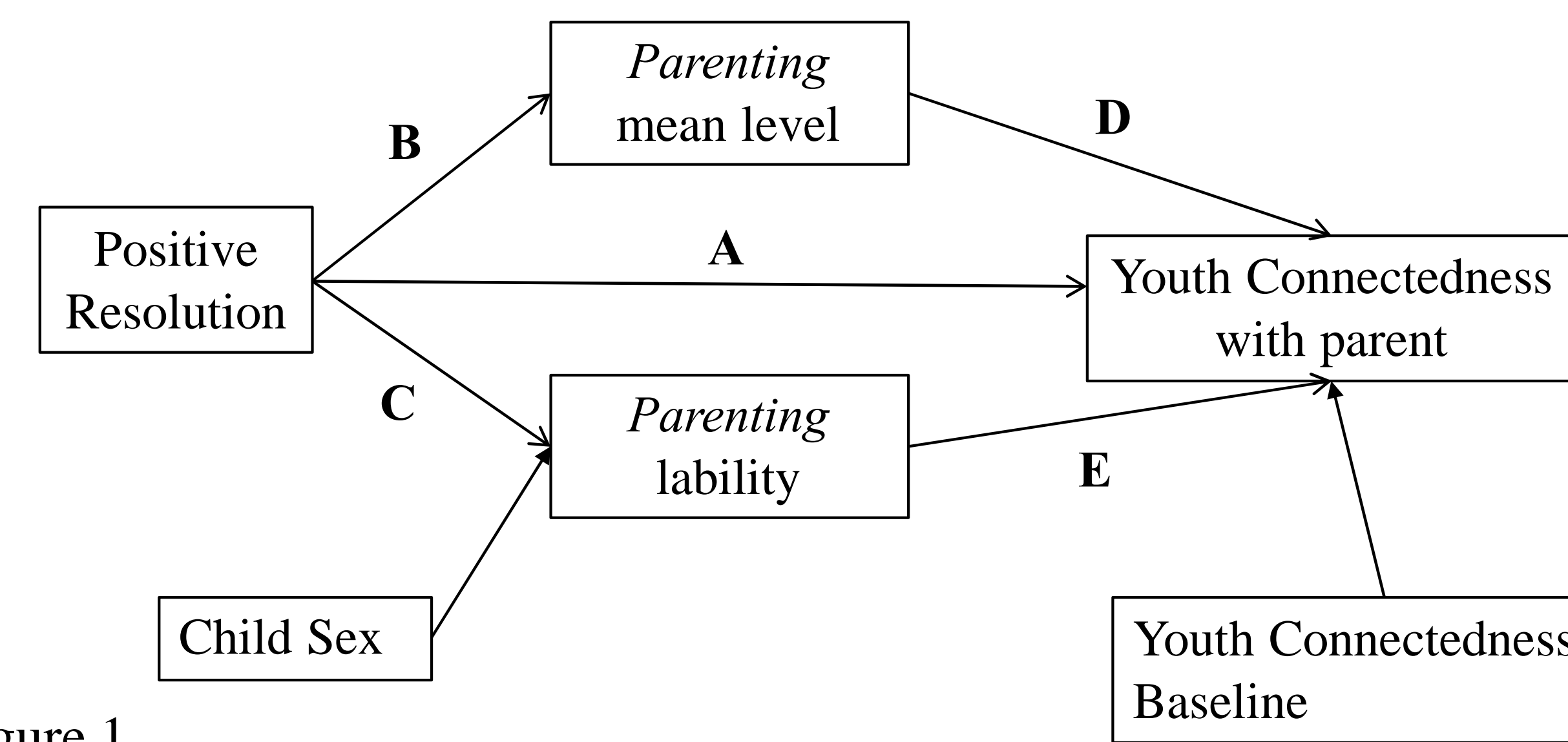


Figure 1

		<u>Youth Connectedness</u>
Praise Model		
Resolution → Outcome	(A)	.05
Resolution → Mean level	(B)	.29*
Resolution → Lability	(C)	-.19*
Mean level → Outcome	(D)	.11
Lability → Outcome	(E)	-.07
Child Sex		.18*
Outcome Baseline		.58*
Enforced Rules Model		
Resolution → Outcome	(A)	-.03
Resolution → Mean level	(B)	.35*
Resolution → Lability	(C)	-.20*
Mean level → Outcome	(D)	.18*
Lability → Outcome	(E)	-.02
Child Sex		.16*
Outcome Baseline		.58*

Note: *N* = 122; bolded* = *p* < .05, + *p* < .07

Fit Indices	Youth Connectedness		Anxiety	
	Connectedness	Anxiety	Connectedness	Anxiety
Praise Model				
Chi-Square (df)	12.34 (4)*	9.03 (4)		
RMSEA	.13	.10		
CFI	.91	.94		
SRMR	.07	.06		
Enforced Rules Model				
Chi-Square (df)	2.23 (4)	.97 (4)		
RMSEA	.00	.00		
CFI	1.00	1.00		
SRMR	.03	.02		
Depression				
Chi-Square (df)	15.73 (4)*	6.18 (3)*		
RMSEA	.16	.09		
CFI	.90	.95		
SRMR	.08	.05		
Antisocial Behavior				
Chi-Square (df)	1.86 (4)	.54 (4)		
RMSEA	.01	.00		
CFI	1.00	1.00		
SRMR	.04	.01		

Association between Positive Interparental Conflict Resolution on Youth Outcomes Mediated by Mean Level Parenting and Parenting Lability

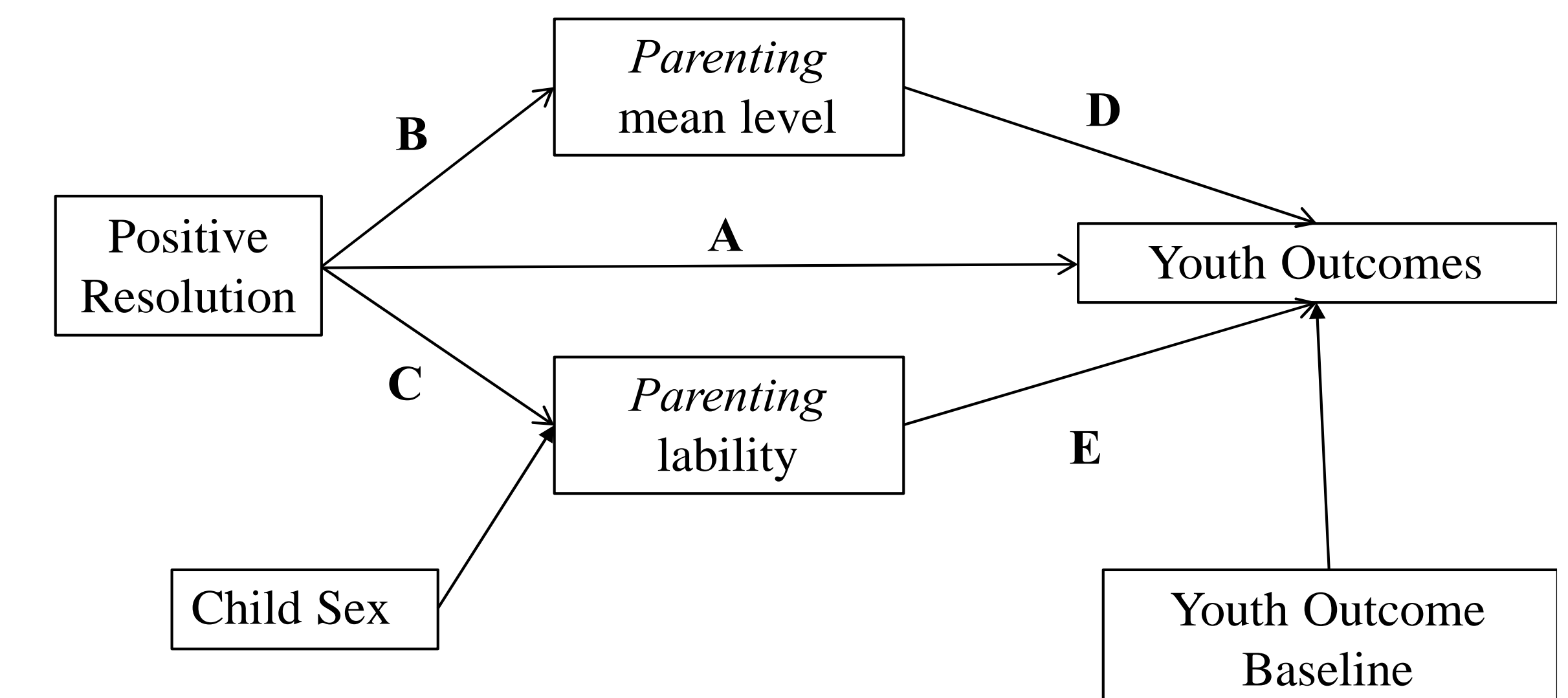


Figure 2

		<u>Anxiety</u>	<u>Depression</u>	<u>Antisocial Behavior</u>
Praise Model				
Resolution → Outcome	(A)	.02	-.01	.05
Resolution → Mean Level	(B)	.28*	.28*	.28*
Resolution → Lability	(C)	-.19*	-.19*	-.19*
Mean level → Outcome	(D)	-.21*	-.11	-.05
Lability → Outcome	(E)	.03	.05	.22*
Child Sex		.17*	.17*	.17*
Outcome Baseline		.50*	.65*	.33*
Enforced Rules Model				
Resolution → Outcome	(A)	-.01	-.02	.04
Resolution → Mean Level	(B)	.35*	.35*	.35*
Resolution → Lability	(C)	-.20*	-.20*	-.20*
Mean level → Outcome	(D)	-.14	.01	-.07
Lability → Outcome	(E)	.13	.15*	.17 ⁺
Child Sex		.16*	.16*	.16*
Outcome Baseline		.53*	.67*	.33*

Note: *N* = 122; bolded* = *p* < .05, + *p* < .07

MEASURES

Baseline

Positive Conflict Resolution
Parent report on Conflict and Problem Solving Scale (Kerig, 1996)

21 Days (Daily Diaries)

Parenting Quality
Parent report on single items for *Praise* and *Enforced Rules*

6-month Follow-up

Connectedness with Parent
Youth report on the Inventory of Parent and Peer Attachment (Armsden & Greenberg, 1987)
Youth Anxiety
Youth report on the Generalized Anxiety Disorder-7 (GAD-7; Spitzer et al., 2006)
Youth Antisocial Behaviors
Youth report on the Antisocial Behavior Scale (Dishion & Kavanagh, 2003)

CONCLUSIONS

- Positive conflict resolution impacts both mean level and lability of parenting
- Mean level enforced rules positively impacts youth's connectedness with their parent
- Mean level praise positively impacts youth's anxiety 6 months later
- Lability impacts youth's antisocial behaviors and depression 6 months later
- Fluctuations in daily parenting provide us with additional information above and beyond mean levels.
- Utilizing fluctuations of parenting behaviors helps us understand unique influences on adolescent outcomes
- This could be influential for interventions targeting daily parenting behaviors to reduce the fluctuations to have a bigger impact on child development.

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