
ABSTRACT

Reliability and validity of an assessment scale for attachment behaviors in children in normal child-rearing environments

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This study aimed to develop Attachment Behavior Checklist (ABCL) [for parents], an assessment scale for attachment behaviors in children in normal child-rearing environments, and examine its reliability and validity. We conducted a survey with 229 caregivers of children in normal child-rearing environments. A factor analysis resulted in a three-factor structure and the reliabilities of the subscales were confirmed. Additionally, an examination of the relationship between ABCL [for parents] and emotional bonds revealed that caregivers who had weaker emotional bonds with their children were more likely to perceive unstable attachment behaviors in their children, suggesting the possible relationship between emotional bonds and attachment behaviors. Furthermore, caregivers who experienced higher levels of parenting-related stress were more likely to give an evaluation indicative of unstable attachment behaviors in their children. These findings demonstrated the reliability and validity of the ABCL [for parents] targeting children in normal child-rearing environments, suggesting that the checklist can be applied as an effective assessment tool for attachment behaviors of preschool age children.

Key Words: Attachment Behavior Checklist (ABCL for parents), bonding, community sample, parenting stress
