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FAMILY CHARACTERISTICS AND CHILDREN'S PRESCHOOL TRAJECTORIES OF DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOURS

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Aim: The aim of this study was to investigate the association between parental characteristics and parental practices and the trajectories of Disruptive Behaviours (DBs) during early childhood.

Method: Trajectories of DBs - Hyperactivity, Oppositional behaviour and Physical Aggression - were assessed based on annual mother interviews from 17 to 60 months for a Canadian population-representative birth cohort (N=2057).

Results: Frequency of DBs increased from 17 to 41 months and then tended to decline. Parental characteristics and parental practices were both associated with chronic trajectories of DBs.

Conclusion: Early childhood is a critical period to prevent later DBs during school years that leads to psychosocial maladjustment during adolescence and adulthood.