

RESEARCH CLINIC

General information

Supervisor:	Judi Mesman
Title of clinic:	Gendered parenting during play
Number of students:	4-6
Major (<i>if applicable and approved by the Major Convener</i>):	No, only as elective
(Pre)requisites (<i>if applicable</i>):	Able to understand Dutch (at least intermediate level)

Research context

In this project we investigate parental messages about gendered expectations to their preschool-aged children. In a sample of ca. 100 children, mothers and fathers are given specific sets of toys to use in a play session with their son or daughter (mother and father separately). During the session the parent-child dyad is first presented with a box in the 'wrong' color and with the 'wrong' toys in it considering gender stereotypes (so a boy gets a pink box with Barbie dolls etc., and a girl gets a blue box with tools etc). After 5-10 minutes of play, the pair receive the 'right' box to play with together. These play sessions are videotaped for coding. In this study we test the hypothesis that mothers and fathers show more sensitive parenting strategies in the 'right' than in the 'wrong' condition (based on previous evidence that parents prefer their children to act in gender stereotypical ways, and that parents can be uncomfortable with contra-stereotypical situations and behaviors).

Students' tasks and activities

LEARNING AIMS

- Understand the main theories and empirical findings regarding gendered parenting
- Acquire skills in systematic coding of parental sensitivity during free play
- Gain insight in the daily practice of gendered parenting in families

TIMELINE AND ACTIVITIES:

- September:
 - background reading and discussion
 - training in coding parental sensitivity
- October - November
 - coding of the videos
- December
 - Preliminary analysis of the first data & discussion