

FAMILY ALLIANCE AS AN ANTECEDENT OF DEPRESSIVE AND ANXIETY SYMPTOMS IN EARLY ADOLESCENCE: FRIENDSHIP QUALITY AS A MEDIATING FACTOR



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01. INTRODUCTION

- Children first learn about relationships in their family
- Gradually move on to a larger social world to interact with peers
- Relationships of better quality with family (Dagan et al., 2022) and peers (Schwartz-Mette et al., 2020) → better socioemotional functioning
- Family influences: important developmental antecedent of children's capacity to make and to keep friends (Pallini et al., 2014)
- Friendship is likely to act as a bridge between family influences and child subsequent socioemotional adjustment
- To our knowledge, no study has yet examined such a developmental cascade

02. OBJECTIVE

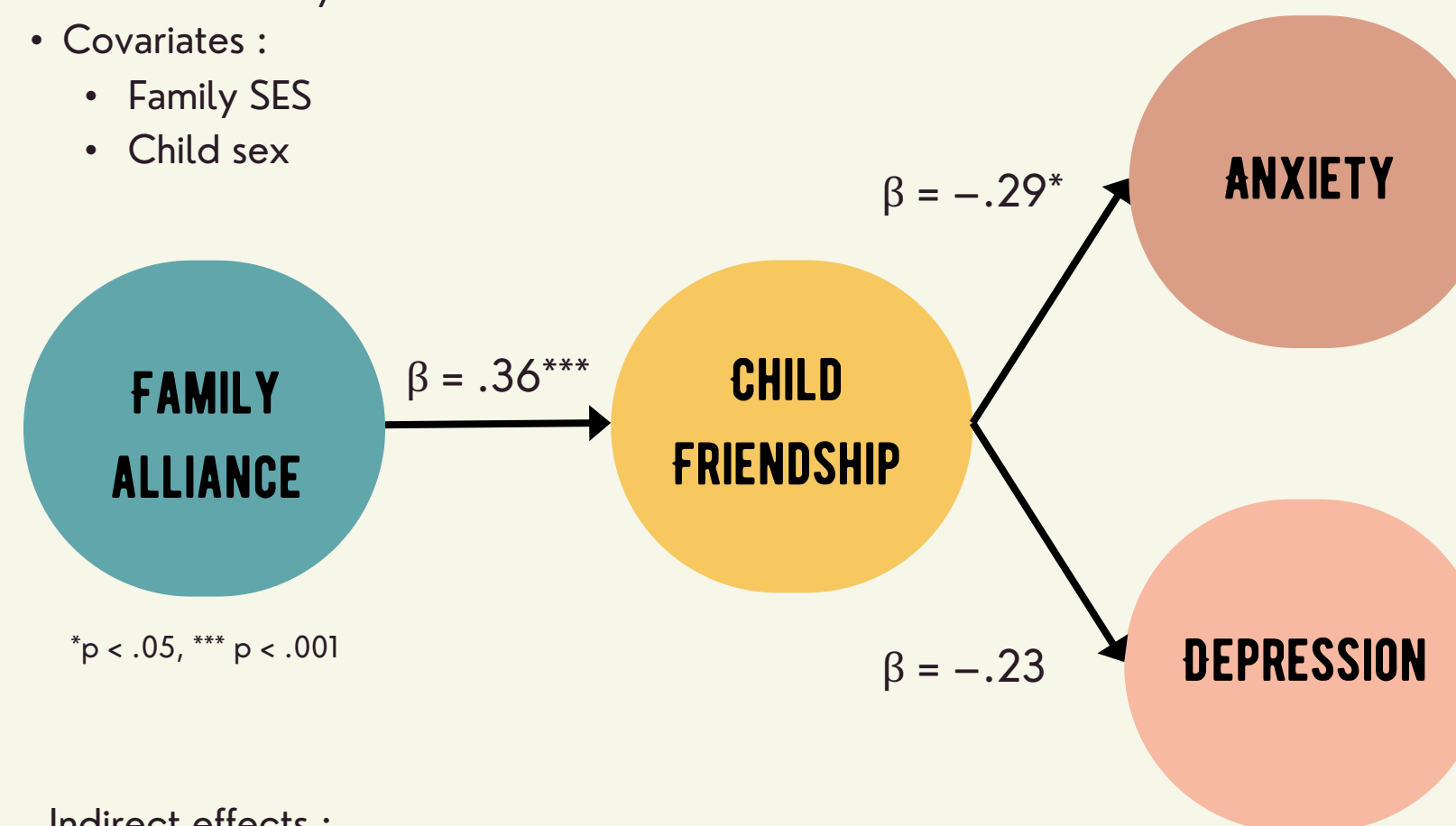
Examine a **6-year developmental cascade** :

Family alliance in kindergarten
↓
Friendship quality in middle childhood
↓
Anxiety and depressive symptoms in early adolescence



05. ANALYSIS

- Mediation analysis with PROCESS in SPSS
- Covariates :
 - Family SES
 - Child sex



Indirect effects :

- Family alliance → anxiety through friendship quality : significant (estimate = $-.102$, bias-corrected bootstrapped CI = $-.216 - .024$)
- Family alliance → depression through friendship quality : non-significant

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N = 87 middle-class families

03. METHODOLOGY

FAMILY ALLIANCE

- T1 : 6 years
- Mother-father-child engagement and coordination in joint activities
- 15-minute Lausanne Trilogic Play (Fivaz-Depeursinge & Corboz-Warnery, 1999)
- Rated using the Family Alliance Assessment Scales (Favez et al., 2011)
- 15 subscales, e.g.,
 - Posture and gazes
 - Family warmth
 - Child self-regulation
- 25% of videos rated independently by two research assistants (ICC = .91)

CHILD FRIENDSHIP

- T2 : 10 years
- Friendship Quality Questionnaire (Parker & Asher, 1993)
- Self-reported by children
- Four subscales used:
 - Conflict resolution
 - Held and guidance
 - Companionship and recreation
 - Conflict and betrayal

ANXIETY

- T3 : 12 and 13 years (averaged)
- Revised Children's Manifest Anxiety Scale-Second Edition Short Form (Reynolds & Richmond, 2008)
- Self-reported by adolescents

DEPRESSION

- T3 : 12 and 13 years (averaged)
- Short Mood and Feelings Questionnaire (Angold et al., 1995)
- Self-reported by adolescents



06. CONCLUSION

- Kindergarteners learn critical relational skills through better relationships with their parents
- Skills they can later use in interacting with peers → develop friendships that provide validation and companionship
- Social provisions = protective factors against the development of anxiety symptoms in early adolescence, a key period for the development of anxiety symptoms (American Psychiatric Association, 2013)

