

The Effectiveness of Reflective Parenting on Meta-Parenting and Time Perspective among Mothers of Children Aged 7 to 12 Years with Generalized Anxiety Symptoms in Isfahan

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1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

You state that the sample consisted of “mothers of children aged 7 to 12 years with symptoms of generalized anxiety,” but the method of identifying child anxiety symptoms is insufficiently described. Please specify the instrument used, cutoff scores, informants (mother-report vs. clinician-rated), and diagnostic criteria. Without a standardized assessment procedure, the internal validity of the inclusion criteria is unclear.

The sentence “30 mothers who had referred to a counseling clinic in Isfahan... were selected through purposive sampling” raises concerns about sampling bias. Clinic-referred participants may present higher severity or help-seeking bias. Please discuss how this recruitment strategy limits external validity and whether baseline severity levels were comparable across groups.

The reflective parenting intervention is described session-by-session; however, no information is provided regarding therapist training, adherence monitoring, or fidelity assessment. Please indicate whether a manual was used, whether sessions were supervised, and how fidelity to the protocol was ensured.

The control group “did not receive this intervention.” Please clarify whether this was a waitlist control, treatment-as-usual, or no-contact control. Also specify whether participants in the control group received any follow-up support after the study period.

You state that assumptions (Shapiro–Wilk, Levene’s, Box’s M) were examined and confirmed; however, no test statistics or p-values are provided. Please report these values explicitly to substantiate the appropriateness of MANCOVA.

In the abstract, it is stated that there were no significant differences in the reflection subscale. However, in Table 3, “Reflection – Group” shows $F = 5.733$, $p = .025$, indicating significance. This inconsistency must be corrected, as it directly affects the interpretation of findings.

Response: Revised and uploaded the manuscript.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

You mention that participants “were randomly and equally assigned to experimental and control groups,” but no information is provided regarding the randomization method (e.g., random number generator, block randomization). Please clarify the allocation process and whether allocation concealment was implemented.

There is no a priori power analysis reported. With $n = 30$ (15 per group), the study may be underpowered for multivariate testing. Given the number of dependent variables included in the MANCOVA, please justify the adequacy of sample size relative to statistical power and expected effect sizes.

You report Cronbach’s alpha coefficients from previous studies but do not report reliability indices for the current sample. Please provide internal consistency coefficients (α or ω) for each subscale in this dataset to demonstrate measurement reliability.

While reflective functioning and meta-parenting are conceptually related, they are not identical constructs. The manuscript occasionally appears to treat them as overlapping without delineation. Please provide a more explicit conceptual differentiation and justify why meta-parenting was selected as the primary cognitive outcome rather than reflective functioning itself.

Response: Revised and uploaded the manuscript.

2. Revised

Editor’s decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief’s decision: Accepted.