


## Attachment Patterns in Children with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders

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### E d i t o r

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### R e v i e w e r s

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### 1. Round 1

#### 1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The sampling strategy could be elaborated further. While you mention purposive sampling, it would be beneficial to explain why this method was chosen over others, such as random sampling, and how it specifically suits the study's goals. Consider expanding on the sentence "We utilized a purposive sampling method to ensure that participants had relevant experiences".

The justification for the sample size of 14 participants is not clear. Although you mention theoretical saturation, it would strengthen your methodology section to include references to qualitative research standards or previous studies with similar sample sizes.

The interview procedure would benefit from more detail. For example, specify how interview questions were developed and provide examples of key questions asked. This can help readers understand the depth and scope of the interviews. Expand on the paragraph beginning with "The interview guide was developed based on existing literature".

The thematic categories identified in your study are well described, but some themes overlap. For instance, "Emotional Bonding" and "Caregiver Responsiveness" both discuss emotional support. Consider whether these themes can be combined or if their distinctions can be clarified.

The discussion section would be strengthened by more explicitly linking your findings to the existing literature discussed in the introduction. For example, when discussing the importance of caregiver responsiveness, directly relate this back to Mukherjee et al. (2016).

The conclusion suggests several areas for future research, which is excellent. However, it would be beneficial to prioritize these suggestions and explain why certain areas, such as longitudinal studies, are particularly critical. Consider adding this prioritization to the paragraph starting with "Future research should explore the long-term impact".

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

### 1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The introduction provides a comprehensive overview of FASD and its implications. However, it would benefit from a clearer definition of FASD at the beginning of the introduction to set a precise context for the reader. Consider revising the sentence "Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) represent a continuum of physical cognitive and behavioral impairments" to include specific diagnostic criteria.

In the literature review section, there are several instances where the citations are not in chronological order, which can disrupt the logical flow. For example, "Phillips et al. (2022); Leruste (2024); Darbinian & Selzer (2022)" should be ordered by publication year for consistency.

While you mention using NVivo software for coding, it would be beneficial to provide more details on the coding process itself. How were the codes developed, and how did the researchers ensure consistency between coders? This would enhance the transparency and replicability of your study.

The demographics of your participants are described in text form, but a table would make this information clearer and easier to digest. Consider adding a table summarizing key demographic information such as age, gender, socioeconomic status, and ethnicity of participants.

While you mention the need for targeted interventions, it would be helpful to provide more specific examples of what these interventions might look like in practice. For example, describe potential therapeutic techniques or support programs in detail.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

## 2. Revised

Editor's decision: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.