

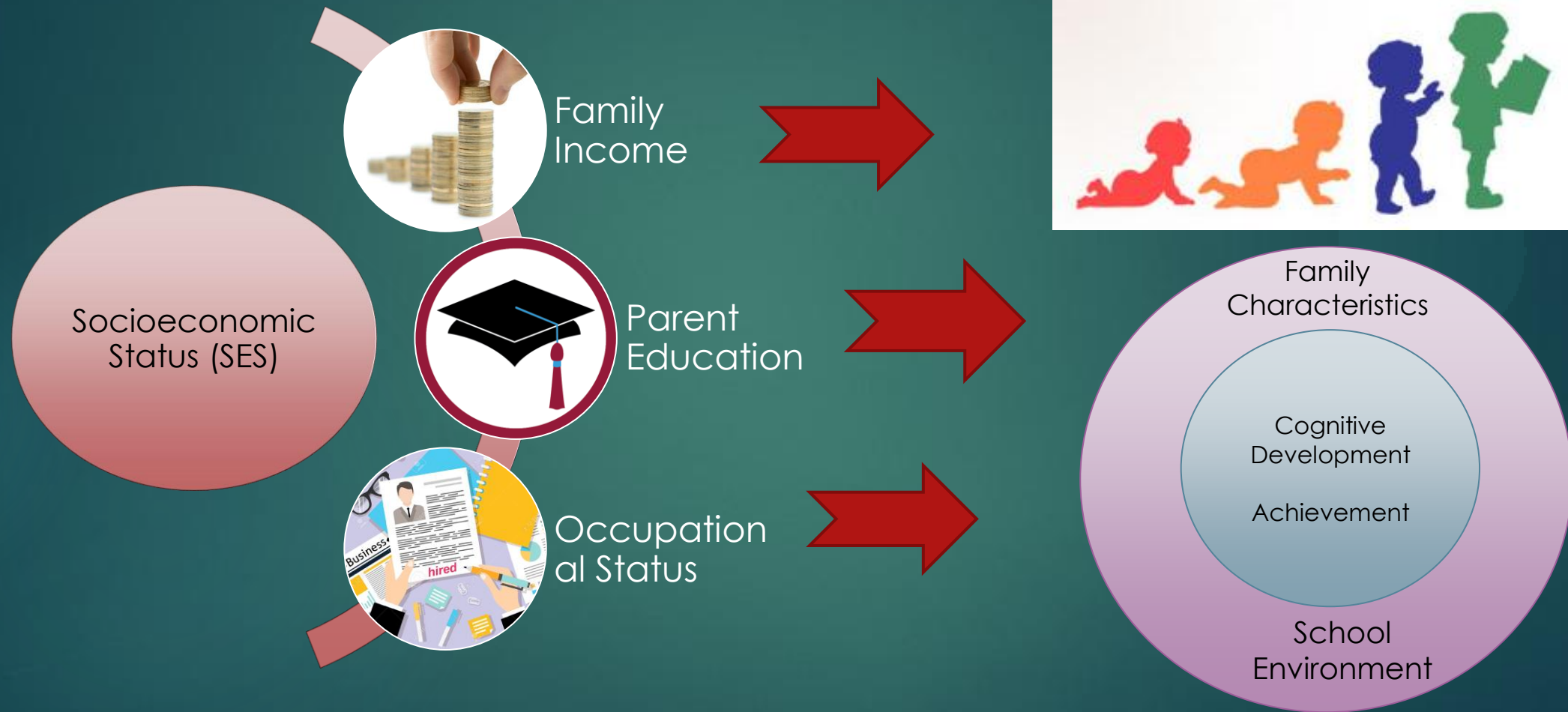
Parenting and Child Socioemotional Well-Being

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Factors/Variables

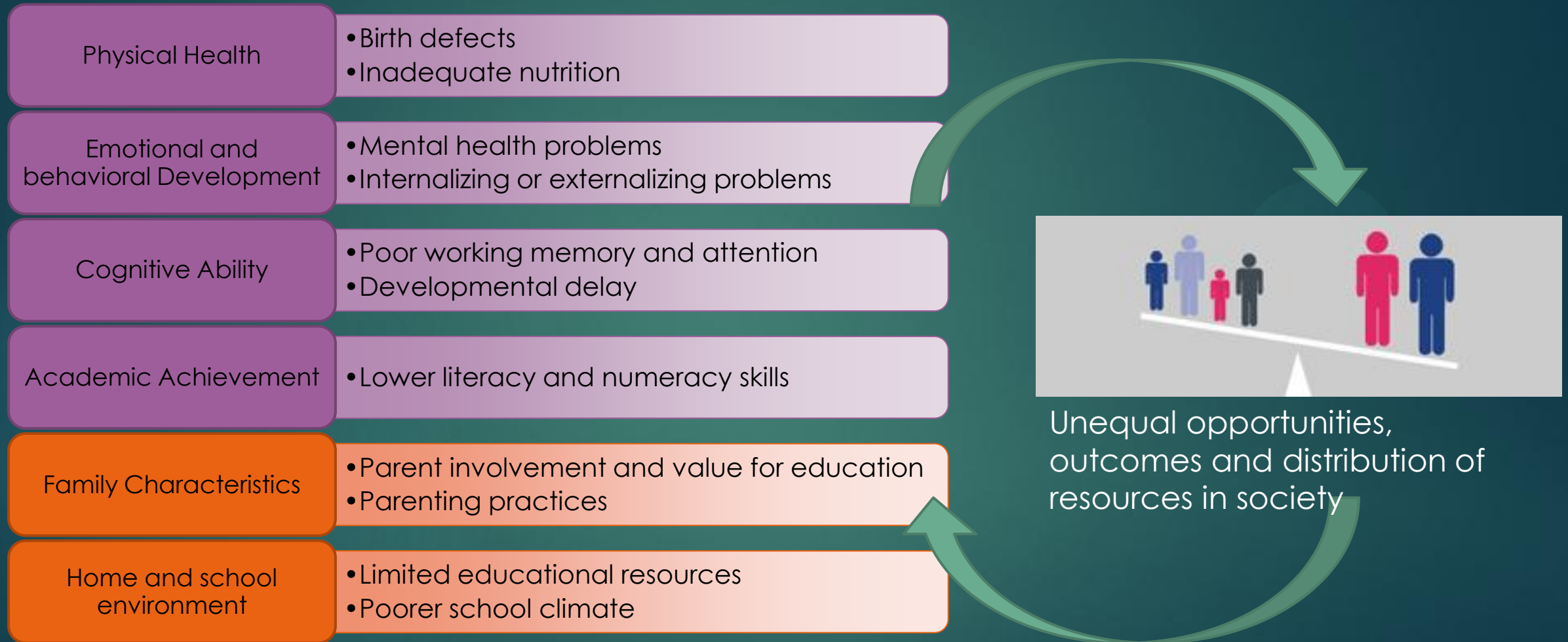
- ▶ Economic pressure
- ▶ Low-SES vs High-SES family backgrounds
- ▶ Parent-child closeness: 親子親密度
- ▶ Parent-child conflict: 親子衝突
- ▶ Prosocial behaviour: 利他行爲
- ▶ Conduct problems: 品行/行爲問題

Socioeconomic Status influences child development

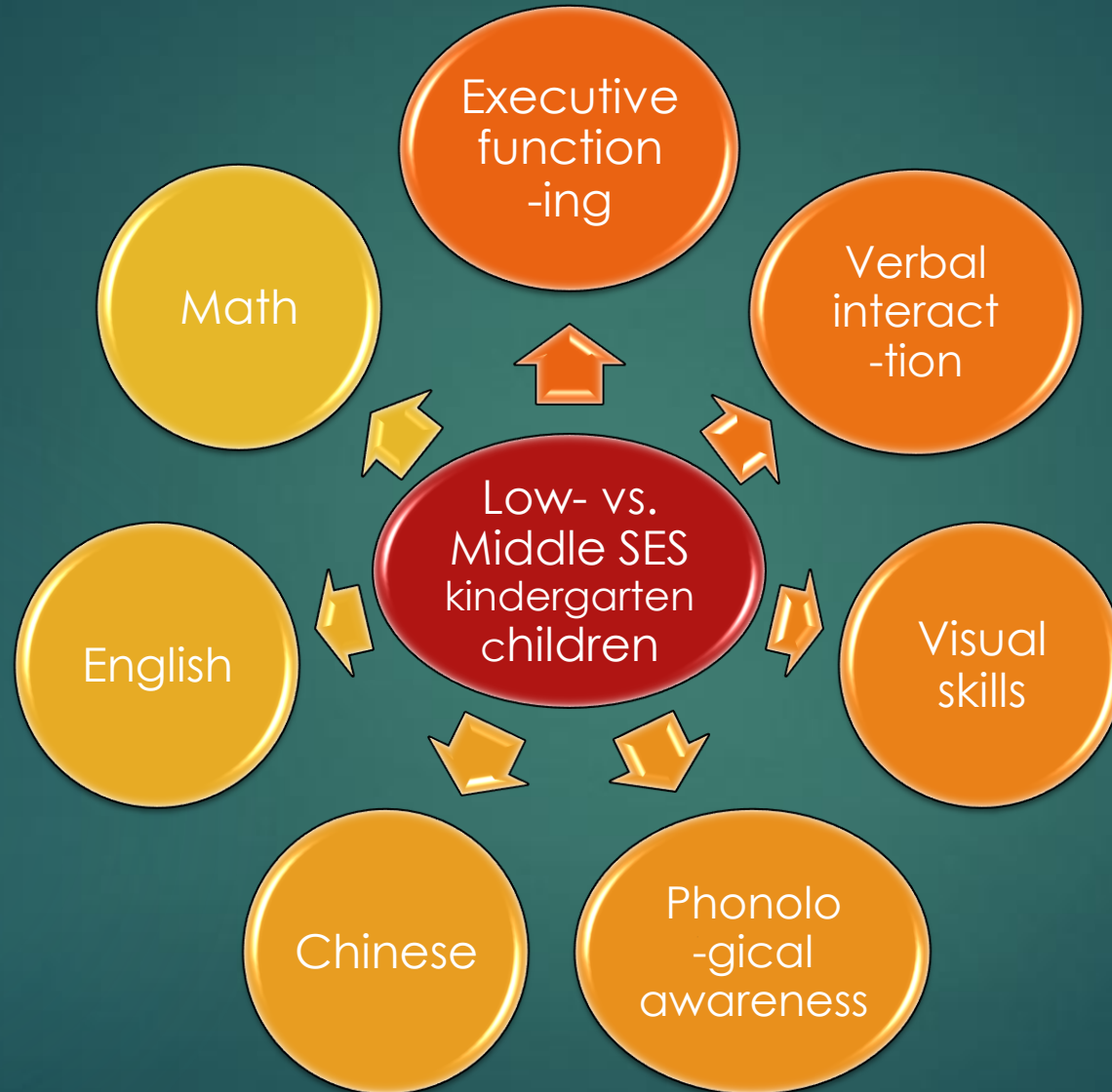


Chung, K. H. (2015). Socioeconomic status and academic achievement. *In International Encyclopedia of the Social & Behavioral Sciences (2nd ed.)*, 22, 924-930.

Low SES is related to risk factors across domains...



Low SES is related to multiple child outcomes...



Low SES is also related to child soft skills...

- ▶ Low SES linked with poorer behavioral and emotional outcomes across cultures (van Oort et al., 2011)
- ▶ The overall prevalence of externalizing behavioral problems is 8-17%, but that among low SES children is elevated, at 20%-33%

van Oort, F. V., van der Ende, J., Wadsworth, M. E., Verhulst, F. C., & Achenbach, T. M. (2011). Cross-national comparison of the link between socioeconomic status and emotional and behavioral problems in youths. *Social psychiatry and psychiatric epidemiology*, 46(2), 167-172.

Parent-child relationship and child socialemotional outcomes

- ▶ Close parent-child relationships positively contributed to children's social competence, such as self-regulatory abilities and peer acceptance, and negatively predicted children's aggressive behaviors (e.g., Verschueren & Marcoen, 1999, Chen et al., 2002).
- ▶ Parent-child conflict has a negative impact on child and adolescent social adjustment. Extreme and frequent conflict was considered as the marker of dysfunctional relationships across childhood and adolescence. (e.g., Rubin et al., 2003)
- ▶ Conflict and closeness in parent-child relationships contributed independently to the prediction of children's behavior problems (Zhang et al., 2008)

Conger's model (Conger et al., 1994)

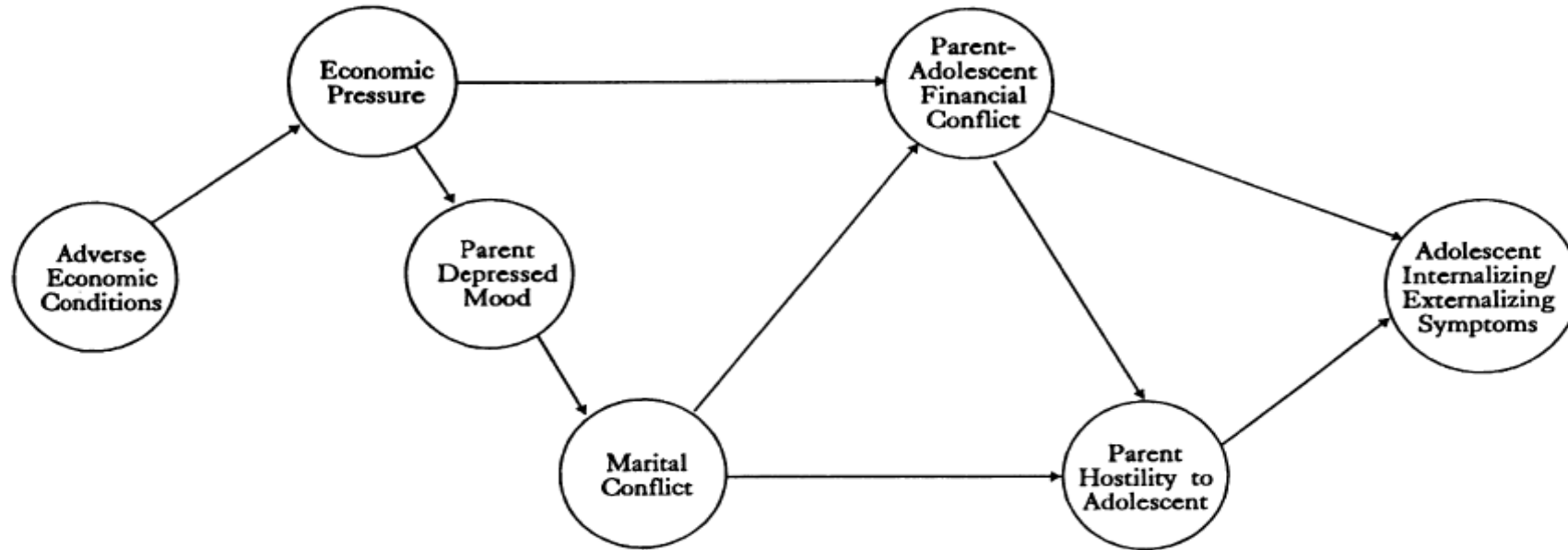


FIG. 1.—The theoretical model

- ▶ Economic pressure experienced by parents increased parental dysphoria and marital conflict as well as conflicts between parents and children over money matters.
- ▶ High levels of spousal irritability, coupled with coercive exchanges over money matters, were associated with greater parental hostility.
- ▶ These hostile/coercive exchanges increased the likelihood of adolescent emotional and behavioral problems.

This study ...

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- ▶ To investigate the effect of economic pressure on maternal parenting that in turn affects child socioemotional well-being
- ▶ To investigate the extent to which closeness, conflict, prosocial behavior, and conduct problems differ between children from low- and high-SES backgrounds.

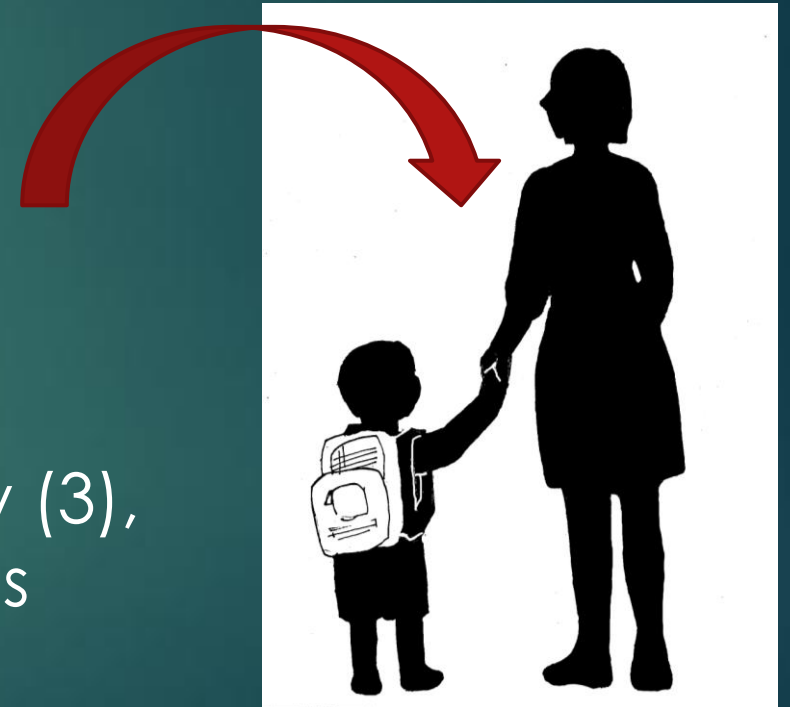
Evans, G. W. (2004). The environment of childhood poverty. *American Psychologist*, *59*, 77-92. doi: 10.1037/0003-066X.59.2.77

Conger, R. D., & Donnellan, M. B. (2007). An interactionist perspective on the socioeconomic context of human development. *Annu. Rev. Psychol.*, *58*, 175-199.

Participants

540 mothers reported on household economic pressure, parenting, and child socioemotional outcomes:

- ▶ 54 % participating children were boys
- ▶ 50% in K1, 50% in K2
- ▶ 10 Hong Kong preschools from districts of low (3), middle (4) and high (3) socioeconomic status



Participant demographics

SES

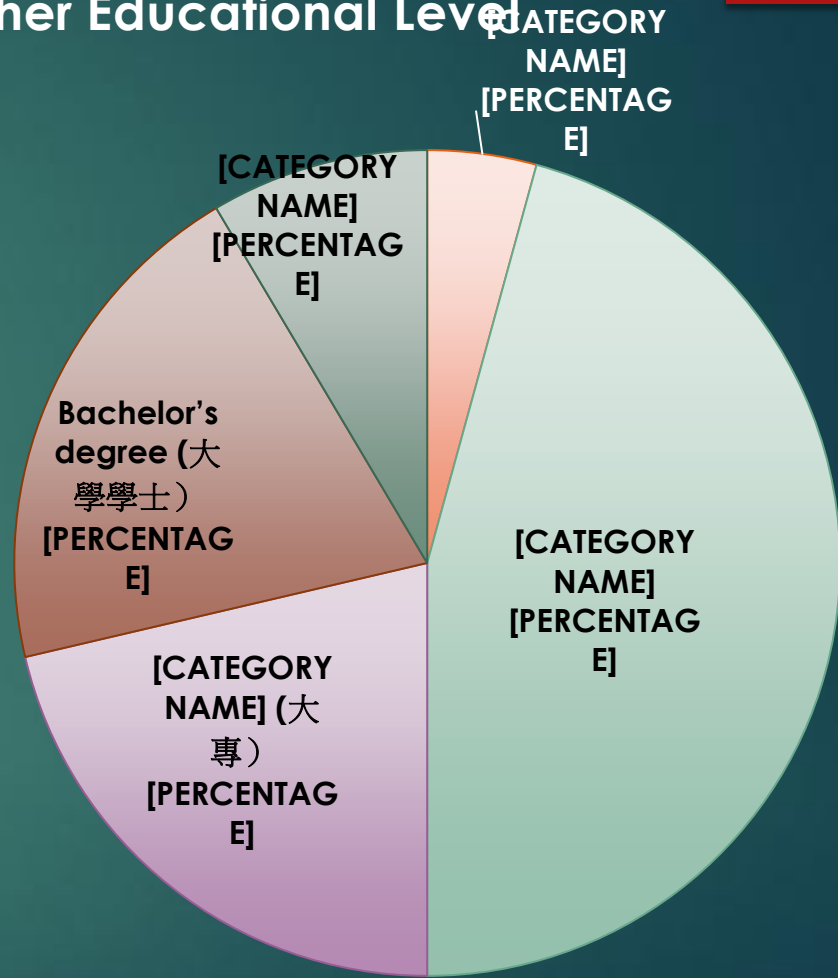
Low Middle High



Mother age

17% were under 30 years of age
 62% were 31-40 years of age
 21% were above 41 years of age

Mother Educational Level



▶ Economic pressure (Conger et al., 1994)

你們一家有足夠的金錢去應付以下各項開支嗎？

Mothers reported whether their families had enough money for 8 items: clothing, food, housing, household items, transportation, medical care, recreation, and child education. Higher scores indicated higher levels of economic pressure.

▶ Parent Child relationship (Zhang, 2013)

▶ Closeness

如果這孩子情緒低落，他／她會向我尋求安慰

▶ Conflict

與這孩子的相處耗盡了我的精力

▶ Child Outcomes (Goodman, 1997)

▶ Prosocial Behavior

如果有人受傷、不舒服或是生病，都很樂意提供幫助

▶ Conduct Problems

經常發脾氣或大吵大鬧

Conger, R. D., Ge, X., Elder, G. H., Lorenz, F. O., & Simons, R. L. (1994). Economic stress, coercive family process and developmental problems of adolescents. *Child development, 65*, 541-561.

Goodman R. (1997) The Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire: a research note. *Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry, 38*, 581-586.

Zhang, X. (2013). Bidirectional longitudinal relations between father-child relationships and Chinese children's social competence during early childhood. *Early Childhood Research Quarterly, 28*, 83-93

Results - RELIABILITY

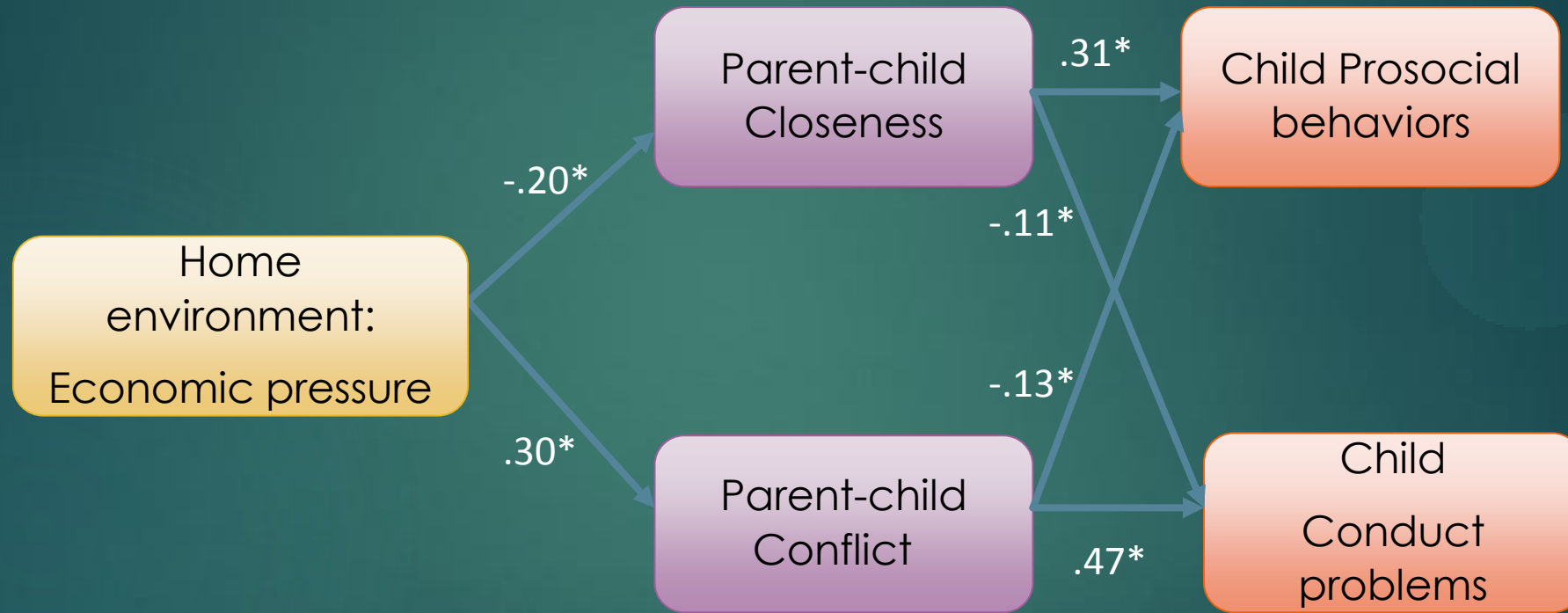
	Number of items	Reliability
Economic pressure	8	.96
Parent-child relationship: Closeness	7	.84
Parent-child relationship: Conflict	7	.82
Child prosocial behaviors	5	.78
Child conduct problems	5	.71

Results - CORRELATION

	Closeness	Conflict	Prosocial	Conduct problems
Economic pressure	-.20	.30	-.22	.23
Closeness		-.44	.37	-.31
Conflict			-.27	.51
Prosocial behaviors				-.37

Note: All coefficients were significant at the level of .05

Results – PATH MODEL



Controlled variables: child gender, child age

Model fit index: CFI = .98; RMSEA = .09; SRMR = .024

* $p < .05$

Results – Comparisons between low and high SES groups

► The full sample was divided into two groups (low v.s. high SES) based their responses on the 8 items of economic pressure.

- clothing
- food
- accommodation
- transportation
- household items
- medical care
- recreation
- child education

197 reported not enough money (equal to or lower than **2** on a 5 point scale) for one or more items **Low SES**



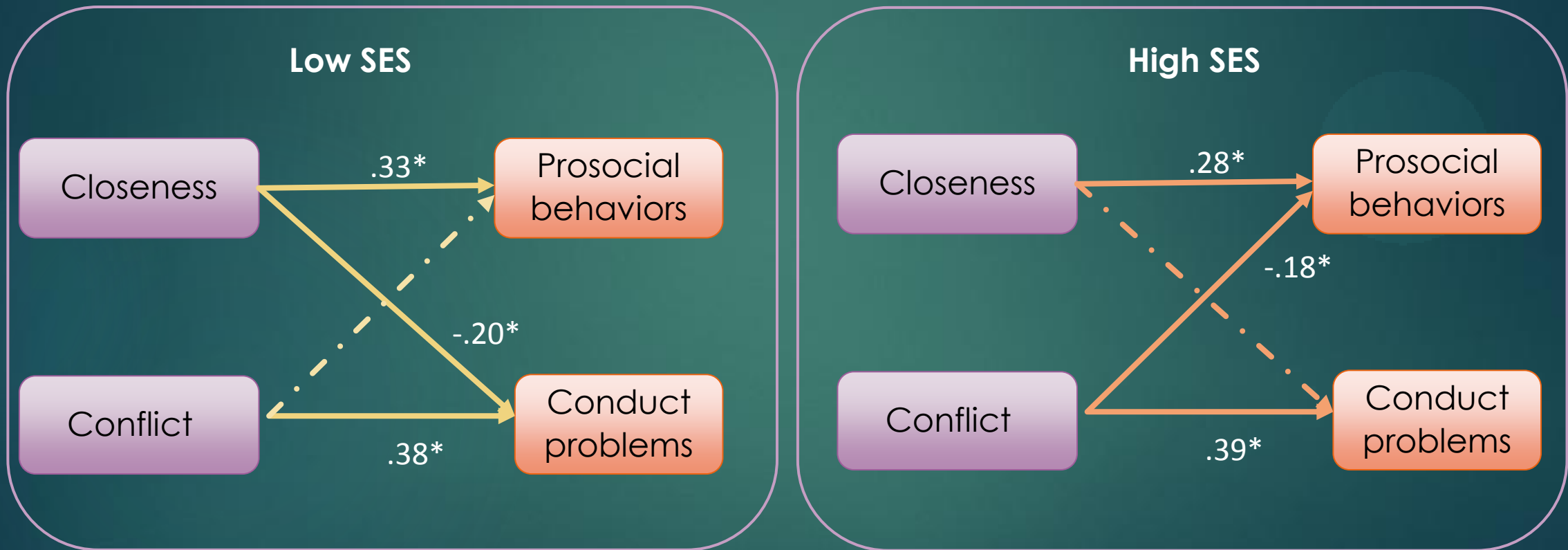
288 reported enough money (equal to or higher than **3** on a 5 point scale) for all aspects **High SES**



Results - Comparisons between low and high SES groups

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- ▶ Multiple group analysis was conducted and results revealed that:



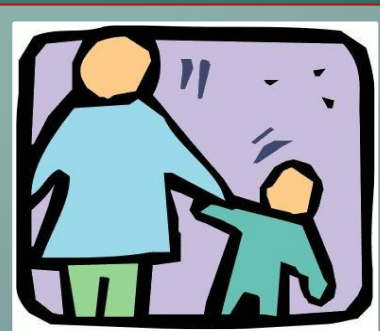
- ▶ Note: * $p < .05$. Dash lines indicated that the effects were nonsignificant at .05 level.
- ▶ Covariates: child gender, child age

Discussions

- ▶ This study extends the previous model (Conger et al., 1994) by accounting for both positive and negative parenting on child socioemotional outcomes
- ▶ This study highlights how family relationship processes mediate between socioeconomic status and child development
- ▶ Parent-child relationship as an entry point for interventions supporting low SES children's social and emotional development



Shared book reading



Attachment-based
Parenting Intervention

Tips for enhancing parent-child relationship

- ▶ Praise child for positive behaviors
- ▶ Reflect child's speech
- ▶ Imitate child's play
- ▶ Describe child's appropriate behaviors
- ▶ Be enthusiastic

Acknowledgement

Our team

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<http://3esproject.eduhk.hk/tc/index.php>



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Questions and Comments ?