

The Behavioral Evidence of Mattering Measure (BEMM), Mattering to Fathers, and Adolescents' Adjustment over Time

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We examined the interplay among fathers' behavioral evidence of mattering, mattering to fathers, and adolescents' adjustment. A total of **393** families with a 7th grader participated in the study over three waves of data collection that ended when adolescents were in the 10th grade. First, we examined the psychometric properties of the Behavioral Evidence of Mattering Measure (BEMM), and the results showed that the BEMM **demonstrated longitudinal measurement invariance over time**. Next, a three-wave cross-lagged path analysis showed that more behavioral evidence of mattering at early waves predicted adolescents' greater perceived mattering to fathers at later waves and **more mattering subsequently predicted less behavior problems over time in the 10th grade**. This study highlights the importance of fathering and how adolescents perceive the father-adolescent relationship.