

Warmer Parenting Makes Antisocial Toddlers More Empathetic

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Pacific Standard:

When parents act warmly and responsively toward young children who exhibit antisocial behavior, the children begin acting more warmly too.

That's according to a new study in the *Journal of Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychology*, in which researchers examined whether there are differences in response to parental harshness and warmth among three-year-olds who exhibit "callously unemotional" behavior.

To parents of little ones, this outcome might seem obvious, but the study's results contradicted the prevailing thinking on the matter. Until now, it has been widely believed that children whose behavior problems include high levels of "callous-unemotional" behavior, characterized by a "lack of empathic concern, punishment insensitivity, and lack of emotional responsivity," are that way regardless of parenting style. Now, however, there's evidence that colder parenting may worsen this type of behavior, while warmer parenting might coax out a child's empathy.

Read the whole story: [*Pacific Standard*](#)