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# Parenting of mothers and fathers with low vision

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## Research questions

1. How do mothers and fathers with low vision perceive their parental self-efficacy and what are their experiences with parenting?
2. Do young adults with low vision differ from a comparison sighted group on these parenting variables?
3. Which factors correlate with parenting variables within the low vision group?



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## Challenges: parenting with low vision

### ► Direct effects of low vision

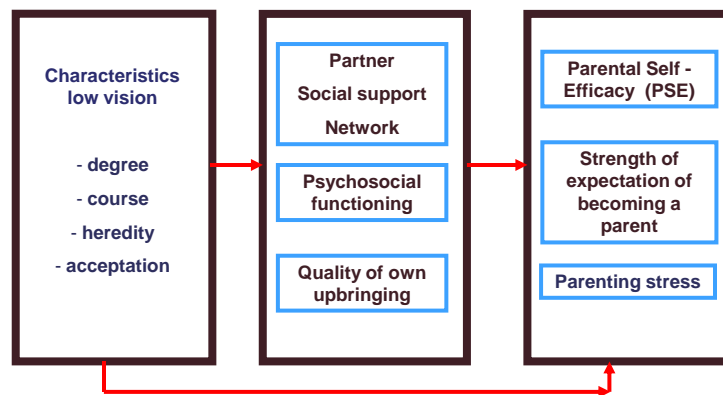
- safety
  - eyecontact
  - heredity
- transport  
energy

### ► Indirect effects of low vision

- social support
  - stigmatisation
  - confidence
- social contacts  
justification

### ► Lack of information

## Conceptual framework (for total study)



# Method

## 1. Telephone interviews (CATI) including standardized questionnaires

## 2. Instruments (i.e.):

- Parenting Self-Efficacy (17 items, confidence of becoming/being a good parent)
- Strength of expectation of becoming a parent (2 items)
- Stigmatisation (4 items, feeling discriminated by others)
- Parenting Stress (52 items)
- Justification of parenting (4 items, need to defend for being a parent)
- Acceptation of impairment (10 items)
- Self-esteem (10 items)
- Well-being (4 items)

# Participants

Low vision group	Their partners	Comparison group no low vision
N=291	N=96	N=91
48 with children	35 with children	41 with children
243 no children	61 no children	50 no children
Mean age 29.1 (20–40 years of age)	Mean age 31.6 (19–45 years of age)	Mean age 30.5 (20–40 years of age)
46 % female 54 % male	59 % female 41 % male	67 % female 33 % male

## Results – Parenting with low vision

48 out of 291 participants with low vision have children (16%):

26 females and 22 males

30 of 48 participants have a heritable disability

11 of 48 have a progressive disability

1 parent of 22 years, 1 of 26 years, 46 of them are 28 years and older

1 child	44%
2 children	40%
3 children	12%
4 children	4%

Regarding parenting – experiences the group mothers and fathers with low vision did report some specific obstacles in raising their children, but no alarming negative results were found.

7 blind parents, 16 severe low vision, 25 moderate low vision

## Results – Parenting group differences

	Low vision with children	Low vision without children	Comparison group with children	Comparison group without children	Significant differences
parental self-efficacy	5.8	5.2	5.6	5.5	Low vision without children sign. lower self-efficacy than comparison group and group low vision with children
strength want to have children	80.3	63.5	87.6	75.6	Low vision without children sign. lower strength than comparison group and low vision with children. Low vision with children lower strength than comparison group with children
expectation to have children	73.2	64.7	80.9	75.1	Low vision without children sign. lower expectation than comparison group and low vision with children. Low vision with children lower expectations than comparison with children
parenting stress	50.70	-	47.40	-	No significant difference
stigmatisation	1.86	2.04	-	-	Low vision without children trend higher feeling of stigmatisation
justification	2.37	-	2.04	-	Low vision trend higher feeling of need for justification

numbers are means

## Results – correlations with parenting

### Low vision with children

### Low vision no children

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
(1) parental self-efficacy	-			
(2) stigmatisation	-.22**	-		
(3) acceptance	.26**	-.44**	-	
(4) self-esteem	.26**	-.52**	.55**	-
(5) well-being	.26**	-.40**	.41*	.58**

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
(1) parental self-efficacy	-				
(2) justification	-.38**	-			
(3) stigmatisation	-.19	.17	-		
(4) acceptance	.07	-.24	-.24	-	
(5) self-esteem	-.08	-.01	-.41**	.65**	-
(6) well-being	.05	-.22	-.02	-.31**	.08

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## Conclusion

1. Participants with and without Low vision seem to differ in their expectations to be a mother or father. Low vision group has lower expectations
2. Similarities and small differences are found for parental self-efficacy between groups.
3. No differences in experienced parenting stress
4. Some correlations between parental self-efficacy and psychosocial functioning, especially *before* having children.
5. However, stronger associations between parenting and contextual factors

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More information: [www.psy.vu.nl/verderkijken](http://www.psy.vu.nl/verderkijken)

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