

# Selfcontrol and externalizing behavior in preschoolers

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<b>Ethical review</b>	Approved WMO
<b>Status</b>	Recruitment stopped
<b>Health condition type</b>	Impulse control disorders NEC
<b>Study type</b>	Observational non invasive

## Summary

### ID

NL-OMON31296

### Source

ToetsingOnline

### Brief title

Selfcontrol in preschoolers

### Condition

- Impulse control disorders NEC

### Synonym

children from a normal population

### Research involving

Human

### Sponsors and support

**Primary sponsor:** Vrije Universiteit Medisch Centrum

**Source(s) of monetary or material Support:** Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek- en Documentatiecentrum van het Ministerie van justitie

## Intervention

**Keyword:** externalising behavior, inhibition, RSA, selfcontrol

## Outcome measures

### Primary outcome

- Externalising behavior
- Selfcontrol
- Psychophysiological measures: heartbeat, 'respiratory sinus arrhythmia' (RSA: baseline and suppression during tasks)
- Parenting dimensions

### Secondary outcome

- Cognitive level (control variable)

## Study description

### Background summary

In adulthood, low selfcontrol is related to negative outcomes, like externalising behavioral problems, substance use, criminal behavior and aggression. The preschool period is an essential period for the learning and development of selfcontrol. At age 4 children go to school. Contrary to toddlers, pre-schoolers are more able to regulate their behavior in a controlled manner. At this age, children become more and more aware of the demands and expectations of the social environment and they gradually learn to adjust their behavior. Individual differences in the ability to selfcontrol at preschool age and the influence on this of the social environment, might be essential for the development of problem behavior in children and the presence of psychopathology later in life.

### Study objective

The present research proposal describes a study in 4-year-old boys with the objective to measure the concept of selfcontrol in different ways. It will be studied to what extent these different methods adequately measure selfcontrol, how they are related and if there is a relationship with externalising

behavior. Furthermore, the current study will study if the regulation of the heartbeat through the nervus vagus is related to measures of selfcontrol and which parenting dimensions play a role in the development of selfcontrol.

## **Study design**

In the current study, selfcontrol will be measured by means of questionnaires filled in by the parents and the teachers, behavioral observations during delay-of-gratification tasks and the performance on neuropsychological computertasks. The externalising behaviors and the parenting behaviors will be measured with standardised questionnaires.

## **Study burden and risks**

Risk: not applicable

Burden: for the parents, participation means that they have to fill in questionnaires, which will take 1 or 2 hours. Furthermore, the mother is supposed to be present during the two homevisits. For the child, participation means that they will be brought into a testsituation for 1,5 hour twice. The tasks will be administered in a playfull manner, in such a way that the child will consider it as 'playing games'.

## **Contacts**

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## **Trial sites**

## Listed location countries

Netherlands

## Eligibility criteria

### Age

Children (2-11 years)

### Inclusion criteria

Sample of the normal population, already included at an earlier age in the selfcontrol study of the University of Utrecht

### Exclusion criteria

none

## Study design

### Design

**Study type:** Observational non invasive

Masking: Open (masking not used)

Control: Uncontrolled

Primary purpose: Basic science

### Recruitment

NL

Recruitment status: Recruitment stopped

Start date (anticipated): 14-12-2007

Enrollment: 116

Type: Actual

## Ethics review

Approved WMO

Date: 14-12-2007

Application type: First submission

Review commission: METC Amsterdam UMC

## Study registrations

### Followed up by the following (possibly more current) registration

No registrations found.

### Other (possibly less up-to-date) registrations in this register

No registrations found.

### In other registers

Register	ID
CCMO	NL18734.029.07