DESCRIPTION

The Journal of Applied Developmental Psychology (JADP) publishes scholarly empirical research relating to human development. The Journal focuses on two key concepts: human development and application of knowledge. Human development refers to the transformations and changes that occur during the life cycle and the processes or mechanisms which influence individuals’ behavioral, cognitive, emotional, and moral development. Application refers to how the knowledge gained from research can be applied to the improvement of developmental outcomes, such as through policy making or within educational, clinical, and social settings. Consequently, papers published in JADP explicitly articulate how findings can be applied to improving the lives of children, youth and young adults. JADP publishes studies on a broad array of social issues and contexts (e.g., differences in cultural, racial, social and learning contexts) that impact human development.

Please see our Guide for Authors for more information.

Benefits to authors
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GUIDE FOR AUTHORS

INTRODUCTION

Thank you for your interest in The Journal of Applied Developmental Psychology (JADP) as an outlet for your research! The following information is intended to help you determine if JADP is an appropriate outlet for your study prior to preparing your manuscript for submission. A paper is appropriate for consideration (full review) in JADP, if it meets the following criteria: directly addresses an important question in the research literature and clearly discusses how new findings are applicable in improving developmental outcomes, for example through policy or within applied settings. By itself, addressing a gap in the extant research is not a sufficient rationale for publication. explicitly examines developmental phenomena, mechanisms or processes, or otherwise has a strong basis in developmental theory, including culturally informed developmental frameworks. reports original empirical findings based on a quantitative statistical approach (mixed method inquiries may be considered, though authors are strongly advised to consult with the Editor in Chief prior to submission). relies on strong developmental methodological designs, such as short- or long-term longitudinal designs or well-designed cross-sectional approaches. does not utilize convenience or small n samples (exceptions may be made, such as when findings are not hypothesized to generalize beyond the sample). is well-written in scholarly English (American and British are both acceptable). is in 7th edition APA format (see below and the applicable APA Style JARS). does not exceed 45 pages all-inclusive of title page, abstract, narrative, references, tables and figures. A typical accepted manuscript is between 30 and 40 pages. Longer manuscripts may be considered if justification is provided in the submission cover letter as to why the extra pages are needed.

In accordance with the APA Publishing EDI framework, JADP is committed to improving diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) in research in applied developmental psychology. Thus, JADP welcomes submissions that make novel contributions to the literature and feature Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) and other historically marginalized sample populations, extend beyond Western, educated, industrialized, rich, and democratic (WEIRD) samples (Henrich et al., 2010), extend prior findings documented in WEIRD samples through replication in novel socio-cultural contexts or populations, and/or involve study designs that address heterogeneity within diverse samples.

Authors are advised to highlight such strengths in the Introduction, as part of providing a compelling explanation of the study's potential contribution to the literature.

The following types of papers are not appropriate for JADP and will not be considered for publication:
Reviews of existing literature
Book reviews
Qualitative investigations
Measurement-focused papers (e.g., measure development and validation studies)

Presubmission Checklist for Authors: Stylistic and Substantive Requirements

Prior to submission, please ensure that the manuscript follows the submission guidelines detailed below. Submissions that do not conform to these guidelines may be returned without review.

General (Full Manuscript) Take care to remove any and all tracked changes and/or marginal comments, and to proofread closely for grammar and style prior to submission. Page numbers and headers must be used. The header should be a 3-5-word abbreviation of the title, and should appear on the same line as the page number. Use one font consistently throughout an entire paper. Multiple fonts are acceptable, and options include: 11-point Arial 10-point Lucida Sans Unicode 12-point Times New Roman 11-point Georgia Use separate pages for the title page, abstract, references, appendices, footnotes, tables, and figures. The entire manuscript must be double-spaced (including references, footnotes, and figure and table notes/captions) and all text must be left-aligned (flush with left margin), not justified. The margins of each page should be 1 in. (top, bottom, and sides). New paragraphs must be indented five to seven spaces (1/2 inch; default tab). Headings and subheadings must follow APA style (see below). Headings should be used to convey the article's sequence and to reveal the organization. Define abbreviations at their first occurrence in the article, in the abstract as well as in the main text after it. Ensure consistency of abbreviations throughout the article. Use two spaces after periods ending sentences to aid readability. Use italics for emphasis, but use minimally. No words should be emphasized utilizing bold, underlined, or capital letters. Use a zero before the
decimal point with numbers less than one when the statistic can be greater than one (e.g., 0.56 kg), but do not use a zero before the decimal point when the number cannot be greater than one (e.g., r = .015; 6.36 Decimal Fractions).

**APA Headings**

There are 5 heading levels in APA (see 2.27 Heading Levels). Regardless of the number of levels, always use the headings in order, beginning with Level 1. The format of each level is illustrated here. Headings and subheadings are not accompanied by letters or numbers. Use as many levels as required in your paper to present the most organized structure. Use at least two subheadings for each section and subsection, or use none. Capitalize each word with four or more letters at all levels.

**In-Text Citations**

All citations must be formatted in accordance with 7th edition APA style conventions.

Both parenthetical and narrative citations are acceptable, and parenthetical citations should generally be placed at the end of the relevant sentence. Unless the sentence contains multiple elements of information from distinct sources, avoid inserting parenthetical citations within sentences as this can interfere with clear communication of ideas.

Please ensure that every reference cited in the text (including the abstract) is also present in the reference list (and vice versa).

**Introduction**

Insert the paper's full title at the start of the first page of the introduction.

Submissions must contain an explicit, evidence-based justification that indicates 1) how the investigation has the potential to make a novel contribution to the developmental literature, and 2) how, if realized, this contribution is relevant for improving developmental outcomes (e.g., through policy or within applied settings). Such statements should be featured early in the introduction (e.g., within the first 1-2 paragraphs), in accordance with the guidance provided in the APA JARS-Quant.

We recommend the following structure, as it is helpful for ensuring that our very broad, interdisciplinary readership can understand the potential value of the research. It is appropriate and necessary to tell the readers precisely what they need to know in order to understand the study, including how it contributes to the literature, and how (if realized) the study's findings have the potential to inform applied efforts. For this reason, the first one to two paragraphs of manuscripts should have the following structure:

(a) The first sentence should succinctly state the general research question the study is asking, or the key problem that the study seeks to address.

(b) Next, include a very brief discussion of the relevant literature and identify notable gaps in that literature. Explain why filling that gap is necessary and valuable.

(c) Then, provide a study purpose statement, which briefly summarizes how your study addresses the informational need you described above (i.e., this is an ideal spot to highlight the unique potential of studies involving marginalized samples and/or novel extensions through replication; see above).

(d) Conclude with a statement about the study's potential novel contributions and applied implications.

**Method**

The methods section involves a detailed description of how the study was conducted. Subsections may include: participants, procedures, measures, design, and analysis plan.
In support of equitable developmental science and inclusive research reporting, the text of the Participants section should include (but is not limited to): Recruitment, eligibility and exclusion criteria Sample size Demographic information, including gender, race/ethnicity, age, SES, and any other relevant descriptive statistics that characterize the sample Attrition and/or bias analyses, as applicable

Participant section should include: Participant selection procedure (i.e., sampling methodology) How informed consent and/or assent was obtained from the participants (or their parents/guardians)A statement indicating that the study was conducted in compliance with the appropriate IRB or ethical oversight Data collection process, including when, where, and how the authors obtained the data Description of any incentives or payments made to participants

Measures section should include: Definitions of all measures used to assess the study's constructs. For independent and dependent variables, provide Cronbach's for the measure in this sample and other relevant indicators of psychometric properties. Note that labels for response scale anchors must be italicized (6.22 Use of Italics). Design section should include a description of the type of research design (e.g., quasi-experimental or randomized experiment; see the APA JARS-Quant for more information).

Analysis plan section should include: Description of data diagnostics, such as descriptive statistics, outlier analyses, missing data analyses, and other such tests of assumptions as is appropriate for the selected approach. Description of how the research design explicitly tests hypotheses or addresses the research questions.

Results

Report descriptive statistics and details about missing data per the APA JARS-Quant. Reporting of inferential statistics conforms to APA standards, including but not limited to:
1. Reporting the value of the test statistic (including direction of effect), degrees of freedom, and the probability of obtaining a result at least as extreme as the one that was obtained (a p-value).
2. Report decimal fractions per APA conventions (see 6.36): Most of the time, only two decimals of accuracy are necessary (e.g., correlations). Use exact p-values to two or three decimal places (but be consistent). If \( p < .001 \); then use, \( p < .001 \).
3. Italicize non-Greek letters, such as: \( N \), \( M \), \( df \), \( SSE \), \( MSE \), \( t \), \( f \), \( SD \), \( p \)
4. Do not italicize Greek letters, subscripts, and superscripts, such as: \( \alpha \), \( \beta \), \( \gamma \), gamma, GLM, WLS, log
5. Statistics reported will vary depending upon statistical procedures. A few examples: Chi-square: \( \chi^2 (5, N = 75) = 8.60, p = .006 \) T-tests: Girls \( (M = 10.00, SD = 2.00) \) scored higher than boys \( (M = 8.00, SD = 3.00) \), \( t(50) = 1.85, p = .04 \) (one-tailed) Analysis of variance: \( F(1, 349) = 8.00, p < .05 \) Regression: \( \beta = .80, p < .01 \)
6. Must report total effect sizes when appropriate. Total effect sizes indicate the strength of the relations between variables, and include (but are not limited to) Cohen's \( d \), \( R^2 \), and \( n^2 \).

Discussion

The Discussion should be prepared in accordance with the structure provided in the APA JARS-Quant). The opening paragraph of the discussion should consider the broad significance of the research, in parallel with the opening paragraph of the introduction.

The discussion should include explicit consideration about how the findings contribute to efforts to improve developmental outcomes, for example through policy or within applied settings (e.g., intervention contexts).

All authors should consider the diversity of their study sample(s) and the impact of the sample's composition on the research. If the study involves Western, educated, industrialized, rich, and democratic (WEIRD) or primarily white sample(s), authors should offer a justification for this approach (for additional information, see Roberts et al., 2020).

All authors are required to include a brief Constraints on Generality (COG) statement (for details, see Simons et al., 2017). This statement should describe and justify the targeted populations to which the findings are relevant, discuss the degree to which the findings may generalize beyond the
study sample, and consider the limits on generality of the research in terms of participants, context, and procedures. Be specific about which elements of the methodology (i.e., sample, measures, and procedures) could likely be varied without impacting the pattern of findings, and which could impact the pattern of findings if varied in replications.

References

Responsibility for the accuracy of the references lies entirely with the authors (e.g., editorial staff will not be able to fill in any missing reference elements, nor are they able to correct any errors in content). All references should be complete and formatted per 7th edition APA style conventions. Include the DOI for all sources for which it is available.

This journal encourages authors to credit underlying or relevant datasets by citing them in the manuscript text and including a data reference in the References list. Format the dataset reference per APA style conventions. Add [dataset] immediately before the reference so we can properly identify it as a data reference. The [dataset] identifier will not appear in your published article.

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In general, be sparing in the use of tables and figures, and ensure that the data presented in them do not duplicate results described elsewhere in the article (i.e., APA style standards also prohibit such redundant reporting). Follow 7th edition APA style conventions in formatting all aspects of tables and figures. Number them consecutively in accordance with their appearance in the text. Organize and label captions and notes per 7th edition APA style conventions.

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Highlights are mandatory for this journal as they help increase the discoverability of your article via search engines. They consist of a short collection of bullet points that capture the novel results of your research as well as new methods that were used during the study (if any). Please have a look at the examples here: example Highlights.

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**Summary Declaration of Interests Statement.** See below for further details.

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A concise and factual abstract is required (100 - 150 words) in accordance with 7th edition APA style conventions. The abstract should state briefly the purpose of the research, the principal results and major conclusions. An abstract is often presented separate from the article, so it must be able to stand alone. References should therefore be avoided, but if essential, they must be cited in full, without reference to the reference list.

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Immediately after the abstract on the first page of the manuscript, provide a maximum of 6 keywords. These keywords will be used for indexing purposes.

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**Reporting guidance**

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Sex generally refers to a set of biological attributes that are associated with physical and physiological features (e.g., chromosomal genotype, hormonal levels, internal and external anatomy). A binary sex categorization (male/female) is usually designated at birth (“sex assigned at birth”), most often based solely on the visible external anatomy of a newborn. Gender generally refers to socially constructed roles, behaviors, and identities of women, men and gender-diverse people that occur in a historical and cultural context and may vary across societies and over time. Gender influences how people view themselves and each other, how they behave and interact and how power is distributed in society. Sex and gender are often incorrectly portrayed as binary (female/male or woman/man) and unchanging whereas these constructs actually exist along a spectrum and include additional sex categorizations and gender identities such as people who are intersex/have differences of sex development (DSD) or identify as non-binary. Moreover, the terms “sex” and “gender” can be ambiguous—thus it is important for authors to define the manner in which they are used. In addition to this definition guidance and the SAGER guidelines, the resources on this page offer further insight around sex and gender in research studies.

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If no funding has been provided for the research, please include the following sentence: This research did not receive any specific grant from funding agencies in the public, commercial, or not-for-profit sectors.

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Supply high-quality printouts on white paper produced with black ink. The lettering and symbols, as well as other details, should have proportionate dimensions, so as not to become illegible or unclear after possible reduction; in general, the figures should be designed for a reduction factor of two to three. The degree of reduction will be determined by the Publisher. Illustrations will not be enlarged. Consider the page format of the journal when designing the illustrations.

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Where a preprint has subsequently become available as a peer-reviewed publication, the formal publication should be used as the reference. If there are preprints that are central to your work or that cover crucial developments in the topic, but are not yet formally published, these may be referenced. Preprints should be clearly marked as such, for example by including the word preprint, or the name of the preprint server, as part of the reference. The preprint DOI should also be provided.

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