

Intergenerationale Transmission of Drinking Habits



Müller, S. & Kuntsche, E. (2011). Do the Drinking Motives of Adolescents Mediate the Link Between Their Parents' Drinking Habits and Their Own Alcohol Use? Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs, 72(3), 429–437.

At What Age are Children 'In-The-Know' of Alcohol and Cigarettes?

Who is drinking or smoking? Where, when and what?

For what purpose? Etc.

At what age? 10, 8, or 6 years? Or even earlier?

From the age of 2 on (virtually as soon as they can talk), children have an idea (i.e. a subjective theory) about the use of alcohol and cigarettes in the adult culture, i.e. who is drinking what in which circumstance





Dalton, M.A., Bernhardt, A.M., Gibson, J.J., et al. (2005). Use of cigarettes and alcohol by preschoolers while roleplaying as adults: "Honey, have some smokes". Archives of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine, 159(9), 854-859.
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What do the Little Ones Know? Alcohol Knowledge and Expectancies among Preschoolers



Zucker, R. A., Kincaid, S. B., Fitzgerald, H. E., & Bingham, C. R. (1995). Alcohol schema acquisition in preschoolers: differences between children of alcoholics and children of nonalcoholics. *Alcoholism, Clinical And Experimental Research*, 19(4), 1011-1017.

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Development of the electronic Appropriate Beverage Task (eABT)



1. step: Re-drawing of pictures



Kuntsche, E., Le Mével, L. & Zucker, R. A. (2016). What do preschoolers know about alcohol? Evidence from the electronic Appropriate Beverage Task. Addictive Behaviors, 61, 47-52.

Development of the Electronic Version (eABT)

2. step: Using a 20-inch touch screen mobile tablet PC (Sony Vaio Tap 20)

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Development of the Electronic Version (eABT)





Some results in a nutshell...

Girls know more about non-alcoholic beverages but not about alcoholic beverages

Knowledge about alcoholic beverages increase steadily from age 3 to 6

- At age 6, more than 4 out of 5 children know what alcoholic beverages contain alcohol; more than half know the name
- Norms about adults drinking culture are developing later (parties: from age 5 on; meals and gender differences from age 6 on)

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	Content		Name ¹	Situations	
	No alc.	Alcohol	•	Men	Party
Family life					
Family structure (N=197)					
Two parents (89.3%)	85.6%	71.2%	51.1%	43.0%	38.5%
Single parent (10.7%)	91.7%	71.4%	51.2%	44.1%	39.3%
Child's sipping (N=198)					
Never (70.2%)	84.6%	67.6%	47.3%	42.3%	37.6%
Once or more (29.8%)	89.6%	80.9%**	60.2%**	44.5%	40.3%
Visits of relatives (N=194)					
< 1x per week (50.0%)	85.7%	65.5%	45.4%	45.2%	42.5%
≥ 1x per week (50.0%)	86.5%	77.1%*	56.7%**	41.8%	34.8%
Going to fairs (N=195)					
< 1x per month (65.1%)	86.3%	66.3%	49.4%	43.8%	38.4%
≥ 1x per month (34.9%)	85.9%	80.9%**	54.8%	42.5%	39.3%
Playing indoor games (N=195)					
< (almost) every day (37.9%)	86.8%	76.7%	53.4%	48.1%	43.9%
≥ (almost) every day (62.1%)	85.7%	68.2%	50.0%	40.4%*	35.5%*
Television viewing (N=194)					
< 2 hours per day (51.0%)	85.7%	70.2%	51.8%	40.3%	35.6%
≥ 2 hours per day (49.0%)	86.7%	72.6%	50.5%	46.5%*	41.8%





Alcohol Expectancies among Preschoolers

The Method: Berkeley Puppet Interview (BPI)



Measelle, J. R., Ablow, J. C., Cowan, P. A., & Cowan, C. P. (1998). Assessing young children's views of their academic, social, and emotional lives: An evaluation of the self-perception scales of the Berkeley Puppet Interview. *Child Development 69*(6), 1556-1576.

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Some results in a nutshell...



Kuntsche, E. (2017). "Do grown-ups become happy when they drink?" Alcohol expectancies among preschoolers. Experimental and Clinical Psychopharmacology, 25(1), 24-30.

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Results on parental alcohol use

- Subsequent to the BPI among children, both parents were asked to complete a questionnaire
- Results show: Parental alc. use \uparrow , boys' pos. expect. \downarrow & neg. expect. \uparrow
- Consistent for both the arousal and sedation expectancies, for both fathers and mothers, for all three alcohol use measures (frequency, quantity, binge) and with evidence from six-year-olds in the US
- Contrast to previous studies among older children and young adolescents showing: Parental alc. use \uparrow , adolescents' positive expect. \uparrow & negative expect. \downarrow

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Interpretation attempts

Early in life and without and own alcohol experiences: boys observe & associate

- positive emotional consequences (happy, relaxed etc.) when parents drink moderately
- negative emotions such as anger, sadness, depression when parents drink excessively

Later, with first alc. experiences, adolescents may more and more adapt their expectancies to their behaviour and the one of others in their proximal social environment (including their parents) resulting in the positive association the more drinking the more positive and the less negative emotions

No significant or consistent effects for daughters

Reason: more normative for males to drink alcohol making that sons are more prone to observe the emotional effects (?) – but caution due to the small sample size

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Kuntsche, E. & Kuntsche, S. (in press). Even in early childhood offspring alcohol expectancies correspond to parental drinking. Drug and Alcohol Dependence.

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Conclusion

Male offspring's alcohol expectancies correspond to parental drinking patters even earlier in life (preschoolers) than previously assumed (late childhood & early adolescence)

Important because alcohol expectancies predict alcohol initiation and the development



Kuntsche, E. & Kuntsche, S. (in press). Even in early childhood offspring alcohol expectancies correspond to parental drinking. *Drug and Alcohol Dependence*.

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The Alcohol Expectancy Task (AET)

Idea: Modifying the emotional content of the eABT pictures to correspond to the emotion categories emerging from the circumplex (Russell, 1980)



Kuntsche, E. & Kuntsche, S. (2017). Development and Initial Validation of the Alcohol Expectancy Task (AET). Alcoholism: Clinical and Experimental Research, 41(8), 1461-1470.

	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
Demographics			
gender	5.09*** (2.47-10.47)	4.99*** (2.38-10.48)	4.93*** (2.32-10.47)
age	0.94 (0.60–1.49)	0.95 (0.58-1.54)	0.86 (0.51-1.43)
AET			
Arousal, pos.		8.05** (2.13-34.20)	9.24** (2.16-39.59)
Arousal, neg.		0.63 (0.26-1.58)	0.66 (0.26-1.68)
Sedation, pos.		1.34 (0.46-3.88)	1.25 (0.42-3.69)
Sedation, neg.		0.26* (0.09-0.81)	0.25* (0.08-0.80)
Questionnaire			
Arousal, pos.			1.19 (0.92-1.52)
Arousal, neg.			1.10 (0.85-1.42)
Sedation, pos.			1.01 (0.77-1.32)
Sedation, neg.			0.83 (0.61-1.12)
Nagelkerke R ²	0.136	0.213	0.230
chi ² of diff.	23.3 ***	14.3**	3.2

Validation of the AET

Take-Home Messages & Future Research

By using emotions shown in drawings, alc. expectancies be reliably measured (according to assumption of the circumplex model of affect) in a more 'neutral', 'stereo-type free' way

AET assessment is independent of language abilities;

thus, suitable for different populations

Very convenient method for both the participants and the researcher

Further development and international validation (Drs. Heim & Monk, UK)

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Kuntsche, E. & Kuntsche, S. (2017). Development and Initial Validation of the Alcohol Expectancy Task (AET). Alcoholism: Clinical and Experimental Research, 41(8), 1461-1470.

Norms

Besides expectancies, descriptive social norms – how prevalent or 'normal' a behaviour is perceived to be in a given context – are important alcohol-related cognitions and strong predictors of alcohol use

Central element of the Social-cognitive Theory (Bandura) but also of successful

interventions (Personalized Normative Feedback, Motivational Interviewing)

Do they exist in pre-schoolers?

Extending the evidence from the Swiss eABT based on a Dutch cohort of 4-6-year olds

 Voogt, C., Otten, R., Kleinjan, M., Engels, R., & Kuntsche, E. (2017). Alcohol-related Knowledge and Alcohol-related Norms in Four to Six Year Olds - Evidence from the Dutch Electronic Appropriate Beverage Task. *Alcoholism: Clinical and Experimental Research*, 41(9), 1637-1647.
 Voogt, C., Smit, K., Kleinjan, M., Otten, R., Scheffers - van Schayck, T. & Kuntsche, E. (under review). Parental Perceptions of Appropriateness Regarding Adults' Drinking in Family-Specific Situations.

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