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Socialization of Emotion: The Role of Parental Discipline in Infant Anger Expression

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SOCIALIZATION OF EMOTION: THE ROLE OF PARENTAL DISCIPLINE IN INFANT ANGER EXPRESSION

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The current study sought to examine how anger changes with age and the factors that underlie that change (i.e., infant locomotor onset and emotion socialization). Participants included 20 white, middle-class mothers ages 18 to 44, as well as their first-born infants at 6 months (all prelocomotor) and again at 8 months of age (half remained prelocomotor). Videotaped home observations were coded for maternal affect, infant affect, and prohibition scenes. Two, 2-way analyses of variance and an analysis of covariance will be conducted. It is expected that maternal negative affect and infant negative affect will increase from 6 to 8 months, particularly in dyads with a locomotor infant. This should indicate the role of maternal affect in infant anger expression, expand current emotion research and provide directions for future work.