



University of Michigan
C.S. Mott Children's Hospital
Von Voigtlander Women's Hospital

Child Gender and Parental Nurturance in Children with and without an NDC

*Danielle Shapiro, PhD
January, 2013*



- **Socialization processes identified in TD populations do not always generalize to families with children with NDC's**
 - Parents of children with NDC's play different roles in facilitating children's social relationships (Cunningham et al., 2009)
- **Gender is a “linchpin” in family roles and processes**
- **Parenting behaviors vary by child gender**
 - Parents are more nurturing towards girls
 - Children with an NDC may be “de-gendered” in ways that disrupt this pattern

Current Study

- **109 children between ages of 6-12**
 - 49 with an NDC (28 male)
 - 60 TD (30 male)
- **Of those with an NDC, 41 diagnosed with CP and 7 with spina bifida**
 - All with an IQ of at least 70
- **Parental nurturance measured using the Parenting Dimensions Inventory**
 - 6 items (alpha = .80)

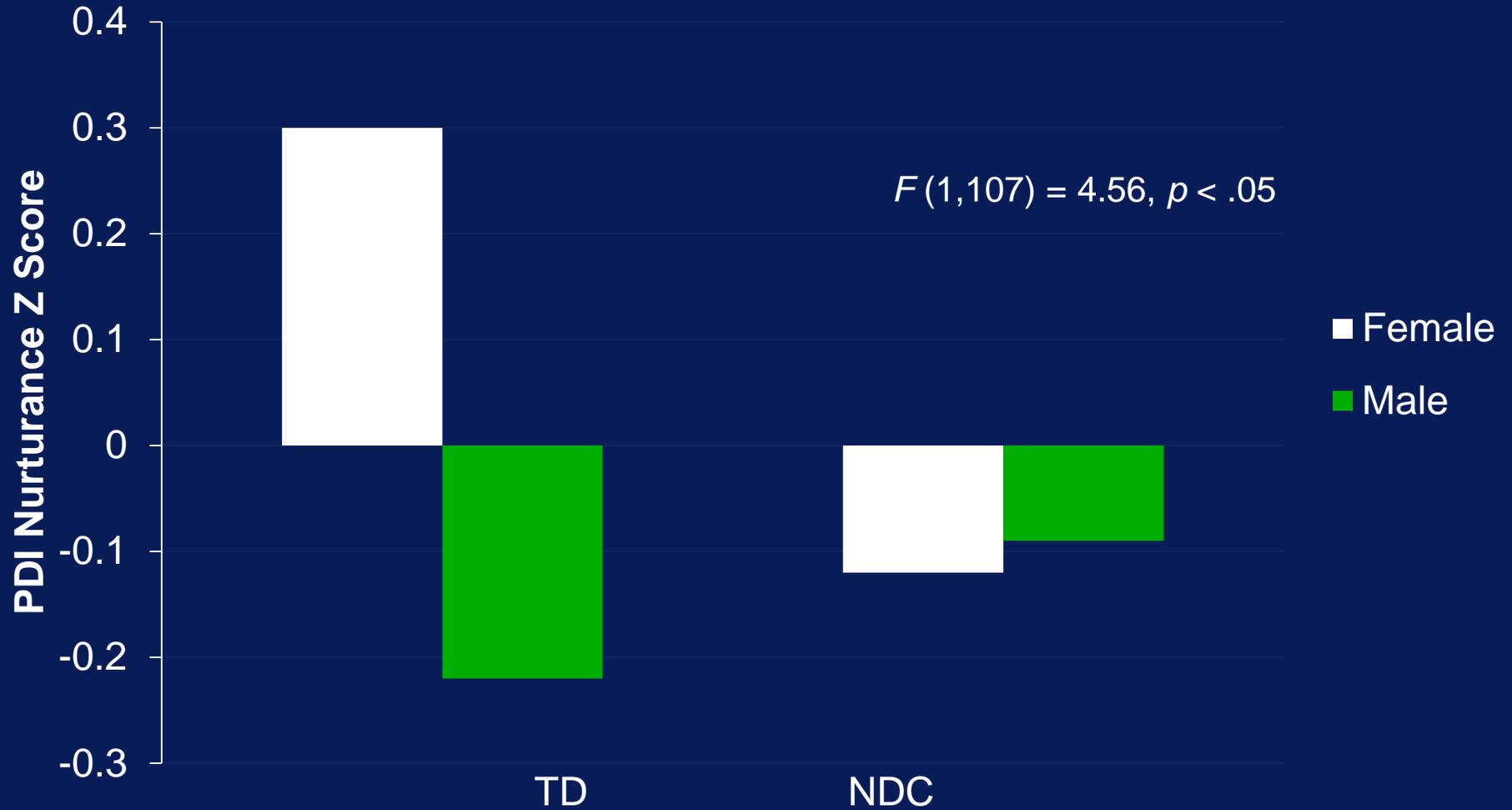
Results



Results



Results



- **Fundamental family processes, like gender norms, may function differently in families with a child with an NDC**
 - And particularly so if the child is female
- **Clinicians and researchers should avoid wholesale generalization of models developed on TD children to children with NDC's**
- **More work is needed to delineate the function of gender in families with a child with an NDC**

Thank you!

Contact: dnshap@umich.edu

