

## **MATERNAL CONFIDENCE OF FIRST-TIME MOTHERS DURING THEIR CHILD'S INFANCY**

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Confidence, Mothers, Infants

Motherhood is a rewarding, but challenging experience. How mothers adjust is influenced by their confidence in their role, their mental health, the social support from their partner, family, and friends, and their perceptions of their infants (Mercer, 1995). Maternal confidence has been identified as a salient variable in maternal role attainment (MRA) (Mercer, 1986; Walker, Crain, & Thompson, 1986). Low maternal confidence delays MRA as well as limits the satisfaction in the mothering role (Mercer, 1986). **Purpose:** To explore the relationship of infant temperament and maternal factors (age, prior childcare experience, social support, and depression) and maternal confidence. **Method:** This study is a descriptive correlational design using a convenience sample of 141 first-time mothers with infants age 6 weeks to 32 weeks. Participants will complete a booklet questionnaire with five parts (demographics, infant temperament, social support, depression, and maternal confidence). Multiple regression, t-tests, and descriptive analysis will be used to explore the relationships of the variables (infant temperament, maternal factors, and maternal confidence) and the differences in maternal confidence between mothers with infants age (6-18 weeks) and (19-32 weeks). **Findings/Discussion:** This study is currently in progress and preliminary findings will be presented.