

# Parental Beliefs Regarding Developmental Benefits of Childhood Injuries

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**Objective:** To assess parental beliefs that minor childhood injuries play a beneficial role in the development of young children. **Methods:** Mothers and fathers of 159 children, ages 15 to 40 months, completed the Injury Attitudes Questionnaire (IAQ), designed to assess parental beliefs that children “learn from” and “toughen up” as a result of experiencing minor injuries. **Results:** A main

effect for parent gender was found such that fathers endorsed stronger beliefs than did mothers regarding the developmental benefits of injuries. **Conclusions:** The accuracy of these beliefs as well as their relevance to parental injury-prevention behaviors is discussed.

**Key words:** injury, children, attitudes

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