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An investigation of associations between experience of childhood trauma and political violence and theory of mind impairments in schizophrenia

Debbie Kincaid , Ciaran Shannon

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Highlights

- Theory of Mind impairments are a significant feature of schizophrenia
- This study found that emotional neglect, specifically during early childhood (0-6 years) predicted theory of mind impairments in this group
- Conflict-related trauma was also associated with theory of mind but was not an independent significant predictor of these deficits
- Exposure to emotional neglect may preclude or reduce opportunities for communication of mental state understanding from caregivers and therefore may result in difficulties forming mental representations, which is required for effective theory of mind

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