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Maternal reflective functioning: influence on parenting practices and the early development of externalizing behavior

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Stellingen behorende bij het proefschrift

**Maternal reflective functioning:
Influence on parenting practices and the early
development of externalizing behavior**

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1. Maternal reflective functioning is a multi-dimensional construct (*this thesis*).
2. Links between parental reflective functioning and children's socio-behavioral development should be studied in the context of parenting practices (*this thesis*).
3. Maternal reflective functioning is an interesting target for prevention and intervention programs aimed at reducing early aggression (*this thesis*).
4. Prevention of externalizing behavior is to be preferred above intervention. The challenge is to determine who qualifies for preventive intervention (*this thesis*).
5. Parents often want quick answers and solutions to their children's problems from "experts"—but the best expert advice may be aimed at the development of the parents' own capacities.
6. All parents want to be the best possible parents, but things can go wrong even for the most dedicated among them.
7. In science, cooperation should prevail over competition.
8. The absence of evidence is not the evidence for absence (*Carl Sagan*).
9. People are more inclined to improve their circumstances than to improve themselves (*based on James Allen*).
10. A mind that is stretched by a new experience can never go back to its old dimensions (*Olivier Wendell Holmes*).