

## 1 - Background and objective

- Empathy vary across lifespan and depends on affective and cognitive abilities <sup>a,b</sup>
- Therefore, Empathic Accuracy (EA) the ability to track someone else's current thoughts and feelings <sup>c</sup> should also vary during childhood and adolescence
- In interactions, EA has mainly been studied in adult samples, especially among couples <sup>c</sup>
- No study on EA abilities in children and adolescents and on parent-child interactions

**Aim :** to synthesize literature on EA of children between 0 and 18 years

Two specific questions :

- 1) How does EA vary from birth to 18 years ?
- 2) Which individual and relational outcomes are associated with EA in parent-child interactions?

## 2 - Method

Following Prisma Norms, a systematic search was conducted on April 2022

### Inclusion criteria:

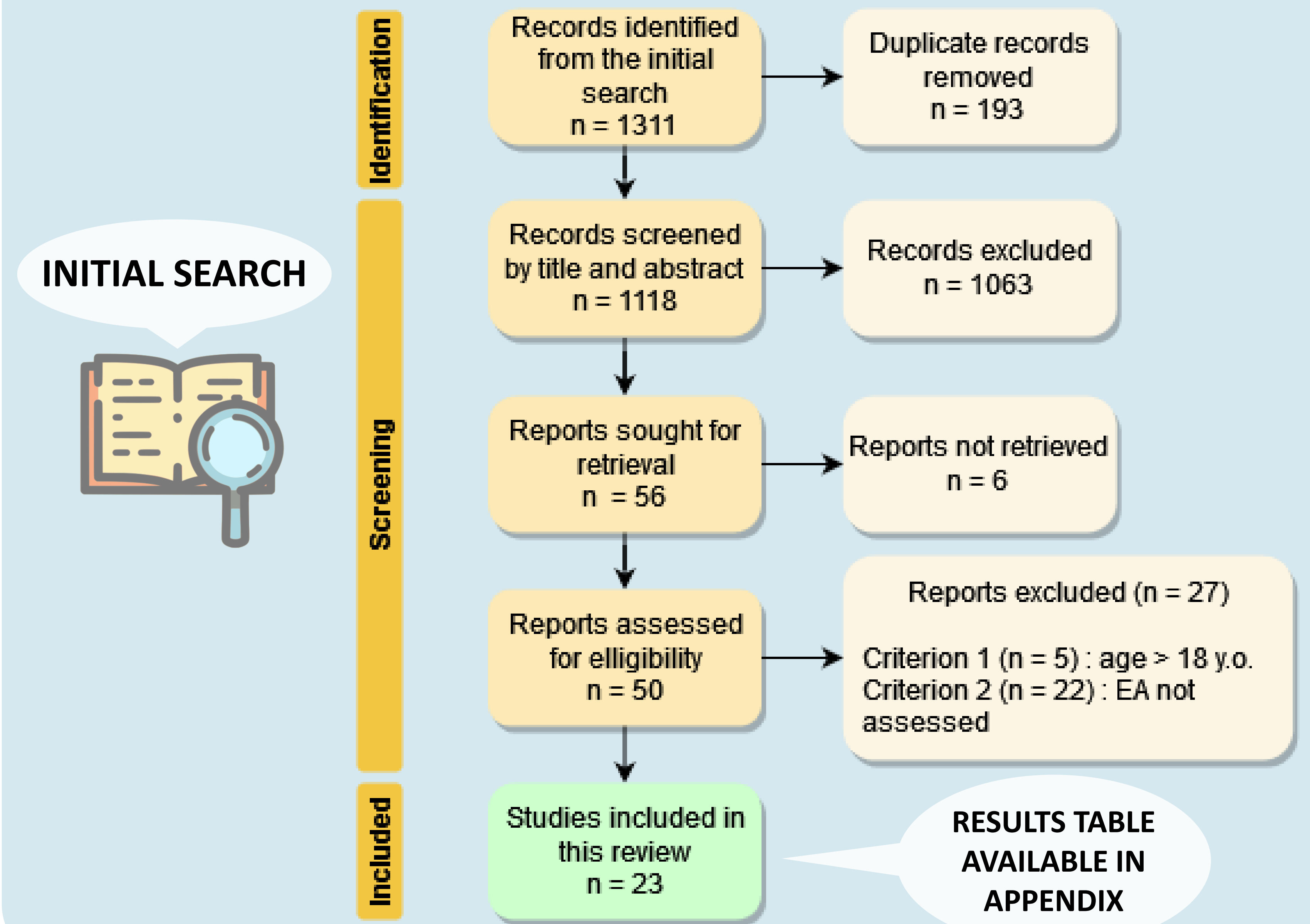
- Measure empathic accuracy
- On children and/or adolescents (0-18)

### Exclusion criteria:

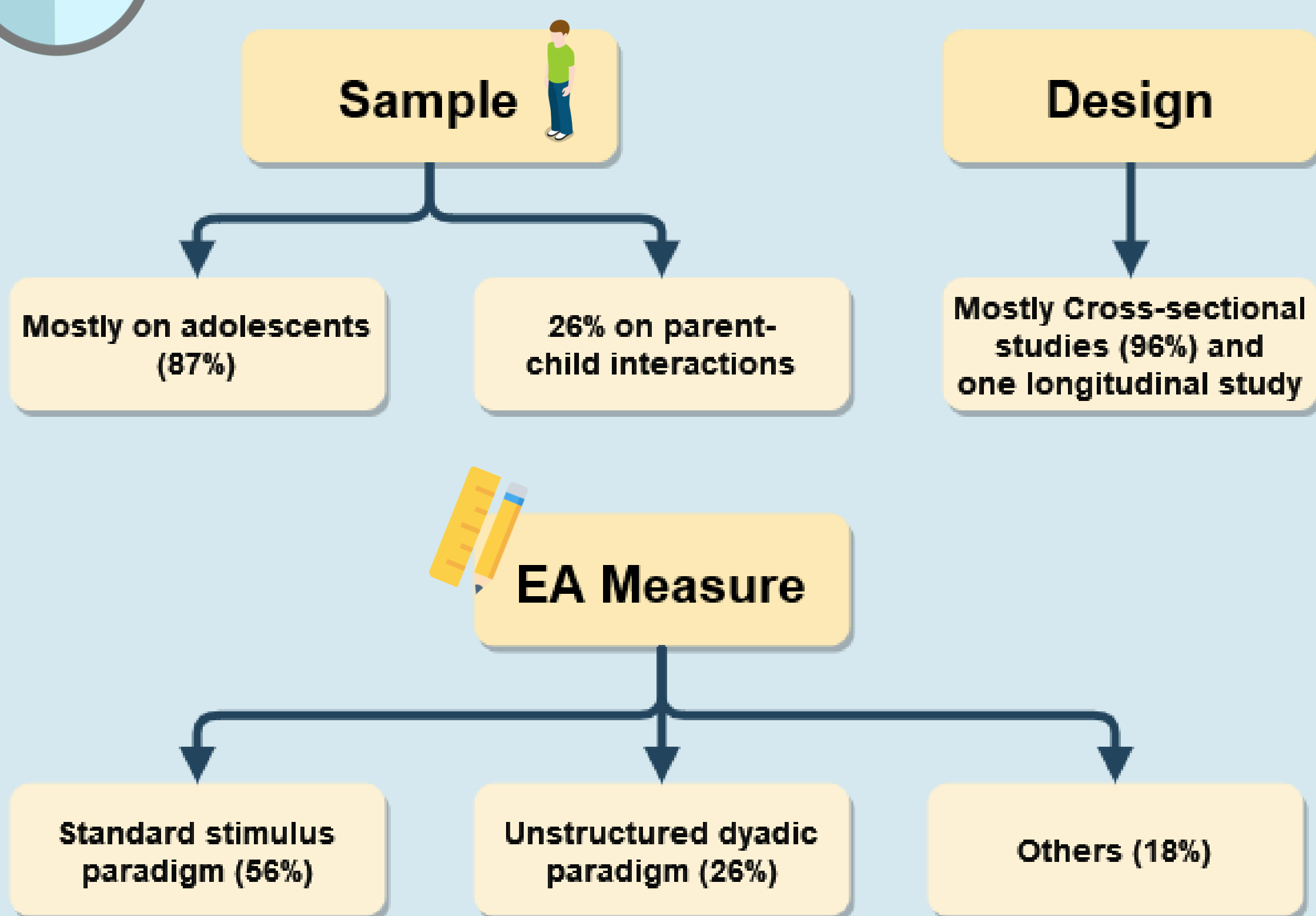
- Non-original studies
- Non peer-reviewed

**Searched Databases:** Proquest (PsycArticles and PsycInfo), Science Direct, PubMed, Wiley Online Library and Scopus

**Keywords:** (« empathic accuracy » OR « interpersonal accuracy » OR « accurate empathy ») AND (parent OR child OR adolescent OR family)



## 3 - Results and Discussion



### How does EA vary from birth to 18 years old ?

#### Mixed results

#### No age differences

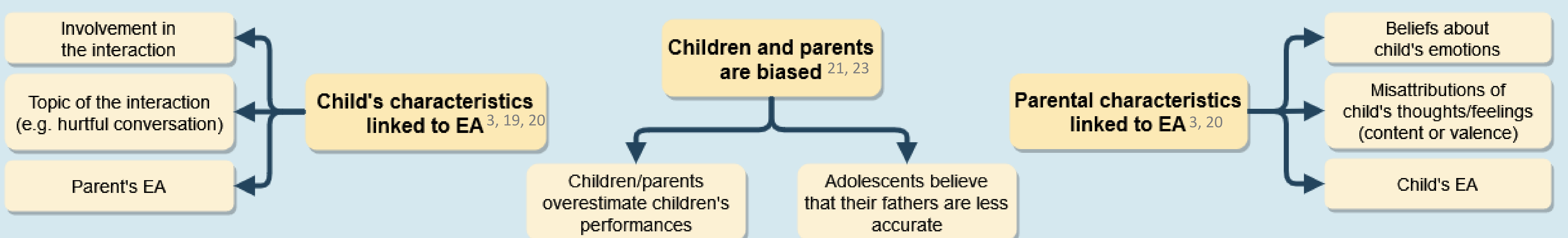
- EA scores in children and adolescents in this review = scores observed in adult samples
- No correlation between EA and age in non-clinical samples <sup>3,5,11</sup>

#### Age differences

- However, age is correlated to EA in autism-spectrum sample <sup>5</sup>
- When comparing different age samples, EA in adult men (25-30 years) > EA in adolescents, but EA in adolescents = EA in older men (<50 years) <sup>16</sup>

- In EA studies, **age** is generally not the main variable, and is mainly studied as a **between-subjects variable** (comparison of children and adolescents of different ages) but not as a within-subjects variable, which only longitudinal designs could test. This would make it possible to assess whether EA follows a developmental course.
- **Cognitive and neural processes** mediate empathic abilities<sup>16</sup>; there is evidence of differential neural circuits underlying EA <sup>7, 14, 15</sup>
- **Other between-subjects variables** seem to reveal more differences in EA in children (e.g. : clinical disorder, interactional context)

### Which outcomes are associated with EA in parent-child interactions ?



- Very **few data** is available about EA of parents, children and how they are linked
- Although parents and children can accurately infer each other's thoughts, their estimation of their partner's EA seems **biased**. As in adult studies, more research on assumed similarity and sources of bias would provide further understanding of these results.

References are available on paper appendix (at the poster booth)