
KEYWORDS: Emotional Availability, Vocabulary, Maternal Characteristics

WHAT WAS STUDIED, HOW WAS IT STUDIED AND RESULTS: Does Emotional Availability (EA) Scales (see Pressman, Pipp-Siegel, Yoshinaga-Itano, Deas, 1999) in 30 minutes of free play impact the vocabulary produced on the MacArthur-Bates Communicative Development Inventory

WHAT DID THIS STUDY FIND? 1) When vocabulary levels are equal, there are no differences in EA between hearing dyads and deaf/hard of hearing children/hearing parents. 2) Hearing levels, EA of mother and EA of child predict vocabulary gain. Child language level may impact EA of the mother 3) EA was more predictive of language gain in DHH dyad than Hearing dyad. Hearing children had higher language at Time 2. 4) Although highly related child EA and maternal EA uniquely predicted language gain, thus child language is not exclusively predicted by either maternal EA or child EA.

HOW THIS INFORMATION MAY BE USEFUL TO YOU AND YOUR CHILD: Focusing on the maternal characteristics of sensitivity, scaffolding, and ability to resolve parent/child conflict can increase the rate of the child’s vocabulary development.

WHO WAS STUDIED: Number of participants N=42 dyads-mother/child pairs (N=21 deaf/hard of hearing dyads, N=21 hearing dyads (N=11 female in each group)
Age at testing 1: 20 – 27 months (Mean 23.5) DHH, 15-21 months Hearing,
Age at Testing 2: 1 year later
Hearing Loss: mild to profound
Age of ID = birth to 23 months (Mean = 9.6)
Ethnicity: DHH dyad: N=18 Caucasian, N=3 Caucasian; Hearing dyad: N=20 Caucasian, N=1 African American in hearing dyad
Matched by Productive Vocabulary +/- 6 words, Mean was the same for each group
Mean maternal level of education: 14-20 years (Mean=16.5) Hearing, 8-20 months (Mean=13.5)

WHAT STILL REMAINS TO BE ANSWERED: Study had a limitation that the hearing children were younger than DHH children. There was no comparison group of DHH mothers with DHH children.