

ARTICLE REFERENCE: Pressman, L., Pipp-Siegel, S., Yoshinaga-Itano, C. & Deas, A. (1999). The relation of sensitivity to child expressive language gain in deaf and hard-of-hearing children whose caregivers are hearing. *The Journal of Deaf Studies and Deaf Education*. 4(4), 294-304.

KEYWORDS: Bonding, Emotional Availability, Expressive Language

WHAT WAS STUDIED, HOW WAS IT STUDIED AND RESULTS:

- LANGUAGE OUTCOME: Child Development Inventory (Minnesota) Expressive Language
- How language is affected by:
- Emotional Availability (EA) Scale (Biringen & Robinson, 1990) 1 to 10 dyadic (parent to child, child to parent) scale, maternal/child sensitivity, scaffolding (amount of maternal support from supportive to intrusive) and resolve parent/child conflict
- Degree of Hearing Loss
- Maternal Level of Education
- Mode of Communication
- Time between Assessment 1 and Assessment 2

WHAT DID THIS STUDY FIND? Better bonding predicts faster language growth.

Maternal sensitivity to the child predicted how fast language grew from time 1 (21-30 months) to time 2 (33-41 months) for children who were deaf or hard of hearing between 21 and 41 months of age.

HOW THIS INFORMATION MAY BE USEFUL TO YOU AND YOUR CHILD: Learning how to improve your emotional sensitivity to your child, your ability to provide just the right amount of support for your child to succeed in difficult tasks, and the ability to resolve parent/child conflict (e.g. wearing hearing aids, understanding the meaning of “no”) can facilitate language development.

WHO WAS STUDIED: Number of participants: N=24 children (N=15 female)

Assessment Age 1: 21 to 30 months, Assessment Age 2: 33-41 months

Children who are deaf/hard of hearing of hearing parents

Average age of identification: 12.73 months (range 0-25 months)

Average age at early intervention enrollment: 15.2 months (range 0-26 months)

Colorado Home Intervention Program

Degree of Hearing Loss: Mild through Profound

Mode of Communication: 8=Oral Aural, 10 = some sign, Age 1: 13=spoken language only, 11= spoken language + sign language, Age 2: 9=spoken language only, 15= spoken language + sign language

WHAT STILL REMAINS TO BE ANSWERED: This study has not answered what intervention would be the most successful for supporting positive maternal sensitivity for parents with children who are deaf or hard of hearing. Efficacy studies for parents of children who are hearing have been done. This study did not include comparisons

between parents of hearing children and parents who are deaf/hard of hearing with children who are deaf/hard of hearing

WHERE CAN I FIND MORE INFORMATION:

Biringen, Z. (2004). *Raising a secure child: Creating emotional availability between you and your child*. New York: Perigee/Penguin Group.

Biringen, Z., Moorlag, A., Meyer, B., Wood, J., Aberle, J., Altenhofen, S., & Bennett, S. (2008). The Emotional Availability (EA) Intervention with Child Care Professionals. In Biringen, Z. & Easterbrooks, A.N. et al. (Eds., invited special mini-series on child care, December 2007). *Journal of Early Childhood and Infant Psychology*, 4, 39-52