

**ARTICLE REFERENCE:** Paradis, G. & Koester, LS. (2015). Emotional Availability and Touch in Deaf and Hearing Dyads. *American Annals of the Deaf*, 160(3), 303-15, DOI: 10.1353/aad2015.0026

**KEYWORDS:** Emotional Availability, Use of Touch, Language Levels

**WHAT WAS STUDIED, HOW WAS IT STUDIED AND RESULTS:** Do the four groups (deaf parents/deaf child, deaf parents/hearing child, hearing parents/deaf child, hearing parents/hearing child) differ on measures of Emotional Availability Scales (Parent Sensitivity, Non-intrusiveness, Non-hostility, Child Responsiveness, Child Involvement) and Caregiver-Touch (Affection, Play-directed, Attentional, Instructive, Prohibitive, Reposition)?

**WHAT DID THIS STUDY FIND?** No significant differences were found between the four groups for any maternal EA variables. Both mothers who were hearing and mothers who were deaf had similar maternal sensitivity. Deaf children with hearing mothers' dyads had significantly fewer child responsivity scores than the other three groups. (no information about language differences in groups that is highly related to EA).

Use of touch to gain attention was significantly different when comparing hearing parent dyads with deaf parent dyads. There was a positive but weak relationship between attentional touch and parental sensitivity, and a negative relationship between prohibitive touch and child responsiveness. As attentional touch goes up so does parental sensitivity and as parental sensitivity goes up attentional touch goes up. As prohibitive touch goes up child responsiveness goes down.

The number of significance tests that are run related to the number of subjects is high. No effect size is provided.

**HOW THIS INFORMATION MAY BE USEFUL TO YOU AND YOUR CHILD:** No significant differences were found between the maternal EA of mothers who were hearing and mothers who were deaf. Child EA responsiveness was significantly higher for deaf dyads and hearing/hearing dyad than hearing/deaf dyad. However, this effect may be entirely related to language levels of the child.

**WHO WAS STUDIED:**

Number of participants: N=16 D/d dyads, N=15 H/d dyads, N=14 D/h dyads, N=15 H/h dyads

No information about Age at testing: first 18 months No information about hearing levels of deaf/hard of hearing children. No information about maternal level of education. No information about language levels of the children. No information about gender or ethnicity of the dyads.

**WHAT STILL REMAINS TO BE ANSWERED:** This study has not answered what the relationship between language and EA in the four groups. If language is controlled for, as well as maternal level of education, ethnicity, or other demographic variables, the child responsiveness effect of hearing/deaf dyad may disappear.

**WHERE CAN I FIND MORE INFORMATION:** <http://www.emotionalavailability.com/wp-content/uploads/2009/08/Emotional-Availability-Trainings-Description.pdf>