

**ARTICLE REFERENCE:** Pressman, L., Pipp-Siegel, S., Yoshinaga-Itano, C., Kubicek, L. & Emde, R.N. (2000) A comparison of the links between emotional availability and language gain in young children with and without hearing loss. In Yoshinaga-Itano, C. & Sedey, A. (Eds.) *The Early Years-Language, Speech and Social-Emotional Development: Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Children of Hearing Parents* The Volta Review, 100(5), 251-278

**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.

**WHERE CAN I FIND MORE INFORMATION:** Bornstein, MH, Suwalsky, JTD, Breakstone, DA. (2012) Emotional relationships between mothers and infants: Knowns, Unknowns, and Unknown Unknowns. *Developmental Psychopathology*, 24(1), 113-123, doi: 10.1017.S0954579411000708