The Influence Of Developmental Support in the Home Environment for Firstborn and Later-born Infants with Disabilities
Tasha Olson, BS; & Lori Roggman, PhD
Department of Family, Consumer, and Human Development

Introduction
Having a developmentally stimulating home environment can support early child development (Elardo, Bradley, & Caldwell, 1977). Some children, such as children with disabilities, may be extra sensitive to the supportiveness of their home environments (Belsky, 2015). Mothers gain experience while raising their first child that may increase the quality of mother-infant interactions for later children (Fleming et al., 1987).

Sample
Extant data on 309 infants with disabilities in the U.S. Early Head Start Research and Evaluation Project were analyzed for this project.

Measures:
Supportiveness of the Home Environment
Measured using the Home Observation for the Measurement of the Environment (HOME; Caldwell & Bradley, 1984) at 14, 24, and 36 months.

Infant Development
Infant Cognitive & Language Development measured at 36 months using the Bayley Scales of Infant Development, Second Edition (Bayley-II; Bayley, 1993) Mental Development Index (MDI)

Infant Emotion Regulation measured at 36 months using the Emotion Regulation subscale of the Bayley-II Behavior Rating Scales (BRS; Bayley, 1993)

Infant Orientation/Engagement measured at 36 months using the Orientation/Engagement subscale of the Bayley-II Behavior Rating Scales (BRS; Bayley, 1993)

Results
Figure 1: Associations between support in the home environment measured using the HOME with infant development for all infants in the sample and split between first-born and later-born infants.

Purpose
to explore the effects quality of home environment throughout infancy has on development at 36 months for firstborn and later-born infants diagnosed with disabilities

Contact
Tasha Olson
Tasha.Olson@aggiemail.usu.edu

Figure 2. Regression models for infant characteristics, earlier infant development, and support in the home environment with infant development at 36 months.

* p < .05, ** p < .01, ***p < .001

Conclusion
Results indicate that developmentally supportive home environments positively influence development for infants with disabilities, with more specificity earlier in infancy.