The Influence Of Developmental Support in the Home Environment for Firstborn and Later-born Infants with Disabilities

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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.

Results

Sample Characteristics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measure</th>
<th>HOME 14 months</th>
<th>HOME 24 months</th>
<th>HOME 36 months</th>
<th>HOME mean</th>
<th>Bayley 36 months</th>
<th>Bayley BRS Emotion Regulation 36-months</th>
<th>Bayley BRS Orientation/Engagement 36 months</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mean</td>
<td>25.85</td>
<td>26.75</td>
<td>26.52</td>
<td>26.08</td>
<td>87.45</td>
<td>5.70</td>
<td>5.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SD</td>
<td>3.81</td>
<td>2.66</td>
<td>3.05</td>
<td>3.84</td>
<td>14.66</td>
<td>.90</td>
<td>.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Min</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Max</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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)

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

Methods

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.

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Conclusion

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