Health Literacy and Children Language Brokers: How Bilingual Children and Spanish-Speaking Parents Navigate the Medical Setting

Luz Maria Carreno
Utah State University

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“Health Literacy and Children Language Brokers: How Bilingual Children and Spanish-Speaking Parents Navigate the Medical Setting”

LUZ MARIA CARRENO, UTAH STATE UNIVERSITY
LISA GUNTZVILLER, PH.D., UTAH STATE UNIVERSITY
JAKE JENSEN, PH.D., UNIVERSITY OF UTAH
Language Brokering

- What is it?
- Who does it?
- Where it happens?
- Why should we study it?
Our Study

- Participants

- Language brokering in the medical setting has received a great deal of attention because of the possible negative outcomes.

- Health literacy: One way to measure ability of child to handle vocabulary.
Variables

- **Health Literacy**: The skills needed to function effectively in the health care environment and act appropriately on health care information (Berkman, Sheridan, Donahue et al., 2002).

- **Foreign Language Anxiety**: Feeling of tension and apprehension specifically associated with speaking, listening, and/or learning a second or foreign language (Maclntyre & Gardner, 1994)

- **Self-Efficacy**: Self-efficacy is the belief of one’s own ability to perform or accomplish a certain task (Bandura, 1977).
Research Questions

**Q1**: What are health literacy levels of children who language broker?

**Q2**: How do parents and children combine their knowledge, as the skills of one may compensates for the skills of the other?
Health Literacy Levels of Children

Number of Children in Each Category

- Inadequate
- Marginal
- Adequate

Health Literacy Levels

16
9
74
## Demographics

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<th>N</th>
<th>Mean</th>
<th>SD</th>
<th>Min &amp; Max</th>
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Results

Child health literacy levels correlated with parent self-efficacy (r = -.28**), parent foreign language anxiety (r = .29**), and parent ability to read English (r = .23*).
Discussion

- What do the results mean?
- What are the practical implications?
- Research implications?
Questions
Citations

