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

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

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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

- Adequate: 74
- Marginal: 9
- Inadequate: 16

Number of Children in Each Category

Health Literacy Levels
### Demographics

<table>
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<th></th>
<th>N</th>
<th>Mean</th>
<th>SD</th>
<th>Min &amp; Max</th>
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<td><strong>Parents</strong></td>
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<tr>
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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

