THE SOCIAL DYNAMICS OF JOINT ATTENTION IN AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE INTERACTIONS BETWEEN DEAF CHILDREN AND THEIR PARENTS

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JOINT ATTENTION, ESPECIALLY WHEN THE PARENT FOLLOWS THE CHILD'S FOCUS OF INTEREST, IS A ROBUST PREDICTOR OF LANGUAGE OUTCOMES. PERCENTAGES CORRELATE WITH AGE.

CURRENT STUDY: CHARACTERIZES THE DYNAMICS OF JOINT ATTENTION INTERACTIONS BETWEEN DEAF CHILDREN AND THEIR PARENTS. WE FOCUS ON THE TIMING AND CONTENT OF PARENTS' NOUN LABELS RELATIVE TO WHAT THEIR CHILDREN LOOK AT AND PLAY WITH.

METHODS

24 Dyads

Deaf children acquiring ASL (9-60 months) and their hearing (n = 15) or deaf (n = 9) parents

FINDINGS

Parents followed their child's gaze and/or touch more than they led. Proportion of "follow-in" labeling instances correlated with age.

DISCUSSION

Parents tend to follow their children's focus of attention when labeling, especially as children age.

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To use do children acquiring ASL are remarkably good at alternating attention between their parents and visual referents.

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REFERENCES

