

Electronic media, language input, and language output in Latinx infants

Exposure to electronic media is on the rise in monolingual English-speaking North American families despite multiple studies demonstrating its negative effects on infant language development. Using Language ENvironment Analysis (LENA) technology, we collected naturalistic daylong recordings from 34 typically developing infants between 7 and 19 months to examine the relation between electronic media exposure and parental and infant language in Latinx families. We hypothesized observing negative associations between electronic media exposure, parental input, and child language output. We found that SES was negatively correlated with TVN (LENA's estimate of electronic media exposure) and that TVN was negatively correlated with and predictive of Conversational Turn Count (CTC) ($p=0.04$) and Child Vocalization Count (CVC) ($p=0.02$), but not Adult Word Count (AWC) ($p>0.1$), suggesting that electronic media exposure negatively impacts infant vocal activity by reducing parent-infant turn-taking, but not parental talk in general. Follow-up manual analyses (completed by the time of talk) will provide further understanding of the qualitative and linguistic aspects of infant electronic media exposure (type and language of media exposure, parental co-viewing), and how they relate to parental talk and infant babbling and word production in each language. The present findings enhance our understanding of the mechanisms through which exposure to electronic media may impact Latinx infants' language development. Specifically, our current results suggest that exposure to electronic media negatively impacts infant vocal activity by reducing parent-infant turn-taking, which is known to positively impact infants' linguistic, socioemotional, and cognitive development.