Parent Emotion-Related Talk in Mothers of Infants with and without Elevated Behavior Problems
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METHOD, continued

MEASURES

  - Parent verbalizations of emotions (e.g., happy, sad, angry) and desires (e.g., wants, needs)
    - Simple Affect:
      - Production (SAP)
      - Elicitation (SAE)
      - Desires
      - Production (DP)
      - Elicitation (DE)
      - Elaboration/Explanation/Inferences
      - Production (EP)
      - Elicitation (EE)
      - Empathy Statements/Sounds (EMP)
      - Other Mental State Utterances (OMS)
      - Other Internal State Utterances (OIS)
- Brief Infant Toddler Social Emotional Assessment (BITSEA): used to determine level of behavior problems (≥ 75%tile considered high risk group)

ANALYSIS & RESULTS

- Using paired samples t-test, results demonstrated a significant increase in Total Parent Emotion-Related Talk over time for the low risk sample (t(27) = 2.38, p < .025).
- Overall, several categories of emotion-related talk as well as the total amount of emotion-related talk demonstrated significant group differences at each time point.
- Latent growth models of parent emotion-related talk were developed to evaluate change in parent emotion-related talk over time. Linear trends were evaluated in the models, using frequency (counts) of parent emotion-related talk.
- Parent emotion-related talk did not significantly change over time in the total sample (p = .288), in the high risk sample (p = .164), or in the low risk sample (p = .997).

Table 2. Means of Parent Emotion-Related Talk Among Low and High Risk Groups

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parent Emotion-Related Talk</th>
<th>Time 1</th>
<th>Time 2</th>
<th>Time 3</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Low Risk</td>
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<td>High Risk</td>
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RESULT ANALYSIS:

- The purpose of the current work was to examine the trajectory of parent emotion-related talk in mothers of infants with and without elevated levels of behavior problems.
- Findings suggest that parent emotion-related talk is fairly stable throughout infancy. However, little is known about the developmental trajectory in older children who may engage in more sophisticated parent-child interactions.
- Overall, findings highlight there are significant differences in parent emotion-related talk in mother of infants with and without elevated behavior problems.
- Specifically, our findings suggest that mothers of infants without elevated behavior problems use more emotion-related talk than mothers of infants with elevated behavior problems.
- Future research should examine the effect of parent emotion-related talk on infant and child outcomes. Given the differences between the low and high risk group, possibly intervening and educating parents about the benefits of parent emotion-related talk as early as infancy may have potential long term effects.

LIMITATIONS:

- Notable, the assessment points when the samples were collected varied, which possibly impacted the results of the trajectory analyses and findings.
- Another limitation is that analyses were conducted using frequency (counts) of parent emotion-related talk which does not take into account the overall amount of speech the parent is using. Future analyses will include proportions of parent emotion-related talk.

LITERATURE CITED


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