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Development of spoken word-learning skills after cochlear implantation: Access to sound is just the beginning

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THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
WEXNER MEDICAL CENTER

Collaborators & Funding

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 Linda Smith

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- Heidi S. Neuburger
- Seth Foster
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- Sven Bambach
- Sami Gharbi
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Department of
PSYCHOLOGICAL & BRAIN SCIENCES

SCHOOL OF INFORMATICS AND COMPUTING

Research Funding

- R01DC006235 (Houston)
- IU Collaborative Research Grant (Houston & Yu)
- T32 DC00012 (Pisoni)

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Cochlear Implantation in Children

Provides access to sound

20-25% (Davidson et al., 2019)

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Real-time mechanisms of word learning during social interaction in young deaf children with cochlear implants

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Cochlear Implantation in Children

- Permanent hearing loss prevalence rate: 1-3 in 1000 births
- Cochlear implants (CIs) stimulate the surviving spiral ganglion cells of the auditory nerve



Cochlear Implantation in Children

- Provide individuals with profound hearing loss access to sound
- Large individual variability in language outcomes after implantation

(Pisoni et al., 2000)



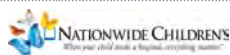
Important Demographic Factors

- Age at CI
- Amount of residual hearing
- Duration of deafness
- Length of CI use
- Number of electrodes inserted
- Communication mode
- Amount of speech-language therapy
- Etiology of hearing loss



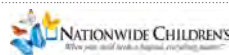
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Question

- What underlying cognitive and linguistic skills does early auditory experience affect?



CI < 1 Year vs. 1-2 Years

Better Outcomes for CI<1

- Colletti et al., 2005, 2009, 2011
- Dettman et al., 2007
- Holman et al., 2013
- Holt & Svirsky, 2008
- Houston et al., 2003, 2012
- Houston & Miyamoto, 2010
- Leigh et al., 2013
- Miyamoto et al., 2005
- Nicholas & Geers, 2013
- Schauwers et al., 2004

No Differences

- Holt & Svirsky, 2008
- Horn et al., 2007
- Houston & Miyamoto, 2010
- Leigh et al., 2013
- Lesinski-Schiedat et al., 2004
- Miyamoto et al., 2005
- Schauwers et al., 2004
- Phan et al., 2016



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- Phan et al., 2016



CI < 1 Year vs. 1-2 Years



Better Outcomes for CI<1	No Differences
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reynell receptive PLS receptive and expressive RITLS receptive and expressive Oral and written language skills Peabody Picture Vocabulary Test Categories of auditory performance Performance IT-MAIS Audiovisual association Babbling DEAP Speech intelligibility rating 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CNC LNT Mr. Potato Head Task Speech discrimination Reynell expressive

Word Learning Experiment



(Houston et al., 2012, *Dev Sci*)

- Does early CI lead to better word learning?
- Early: 6.4–11.8 months
- “Late:” 12.2–15.6 months
- Profound hearing loss
- 1-1.5 years post-CI
- Compared to NH chronologically age-matched – “NHCA”
- Used a variant of the Intermodal Preferential Looking Paradigm

Demographic Variables for Early and Late CI

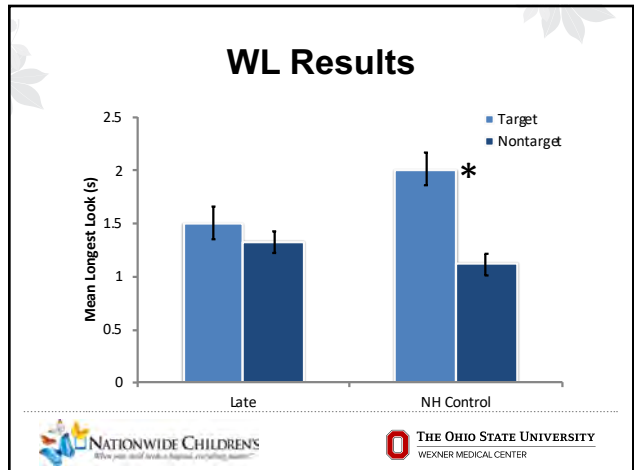
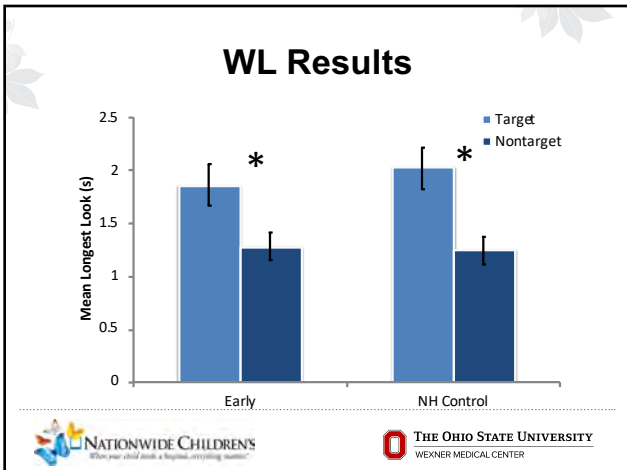
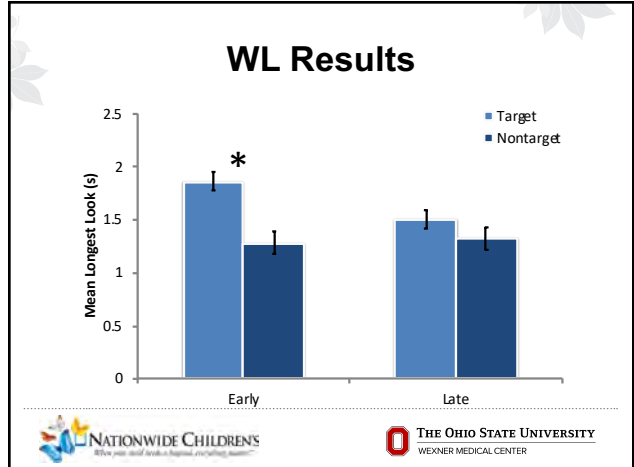
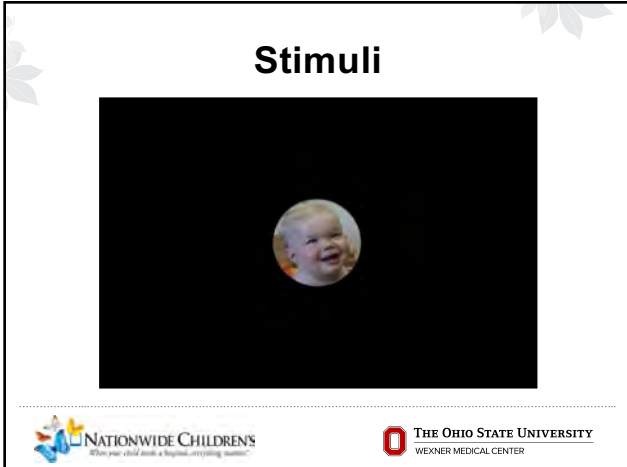
	Early CI(10)	Late CI(10)	Stg diff?
Age at CI (mos)	9.6 (6.4-11.8)	14.3 (12.2-15.6)	Yes
Pre-CI aided PTA (dB)	87 (82-90)	88 (82-90)	No
Communication Mode	7 OC 3 TC	6 OC 4 TC	No
# Bilateral at test	2	2	No
Hearing age at test (mos)	15.8 (10.8-20.8)	14.8 (10.3-20.3)	No
Maternal Education (yrs)	15.0 (12-20)	13.8 (12-18)	No

Intermodal Preferential Looking Paradigm (IPLP)





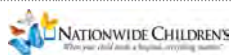
Partial Correlations

(3-4 years post-CI)

(Controlling for age at CI and residual hearing)

	Vocab (PPVT)	Rec Lang (PLS-aud)	Exp Lang (PLS-exp)	Speech Perc (LNT-words)
Word Learning				
Pearson's r	.60*	.70***	.59*	.21
N	18	16	16	18

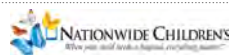
*p<.05; ***p<.01



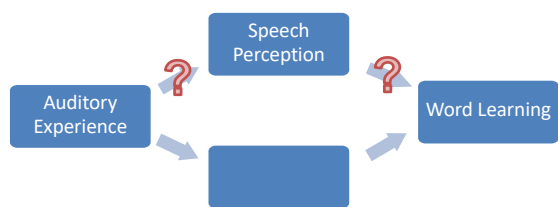
Conclusions

- No evidence so far that CI <1 year leads to better hearing or speech perception than CI 1–2 years
- CI <1 year leads to better novel word-learning skills
- Early word-learning skills are important for language outcomes

What leads to better word-learning skills?



How does auditory experience affect word-learning skills?



Interaction and Language

- Joint attention associated with vocabulary
 - Tomasello & Todd, 1983; Morales et al., 2000; Beuker et al., 2013; [Cejas et al., 2014](#)
- Following attention better than directing attention
 - Dunham et al, 1993; Tomasello & Farrar, 1986; Yu & Smith, 2012
- Parent responsivity positively associated with language
 - Bornstein et al., 1999; Tamis-LeMonda et al., 2001; [Pressman et al, 1999](#); [Quittner et al., 2013](#)



Effects of Hearing Experience on Parent-Child Interactions

- NH-D/HH differences in joint attention, turn-taking, overlapping speech, parents' referential cues
 - Fagan et al., 2014; Lund & Schuele, 2015; Morgan et al., 2014; Tasker et al., 2010



Limitations of current work on interactions with D/HH children

- Most focus on parent rather than bi-directional interaction
- Little work on micro-level, real-time properties specific to word learning



Three Studies/Analyses

1. Object-related utterances by parents and child attention to objects
 - Attention and object learning (e.g., Macroy-Higgins & Montemarano, 2016)
2. Synchrony of parent naming and child attention
 - Synchrony and word learning (e.g., Yu & Smith, 2012)
3. Joint attention
 - JA and vocabulary (e.g., Tomasello & Todd, 1983)



Dyad Play Session

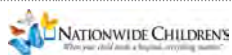


In-Hand and Eye Tracking

Infants' egocentric view



Parents' egocentric view



Set 1



Ballee

Dooga

Teeva

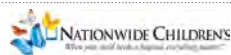
Set 2



Foma

Mobit

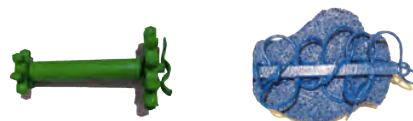
Kooka



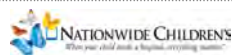
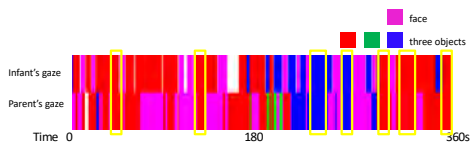
35 mos old; 15 mos CI use



Preferential Looking Paradigm (PLP)



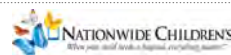
Examples of Infant's and Parent's Gaze Data Stream



Participants

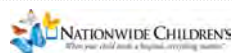
Older NH Younger NH

Device	HI		Etiology	Gender	Older NH	Younger NH
	Chronological Age	Hearing Age			NH-CA	NH-HA
CI	37	12	LVA	M	36	13
HA	36	25	Unknown	F	36	24
CI	34	14	Unknown	F	35	14
CI	30	10	Unknown	F	28	12
HA	27	22	Unknown	M	25	23
<i>M</i>	32.8	16.6			32	17.2



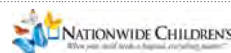
Three Studies/Analyses

1. Object-related utterances by parents and child attention to objects
2. Synchrony of parent naming and child attention
3. Joint attention



Three Studies/Analyses

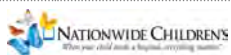
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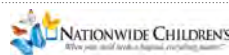
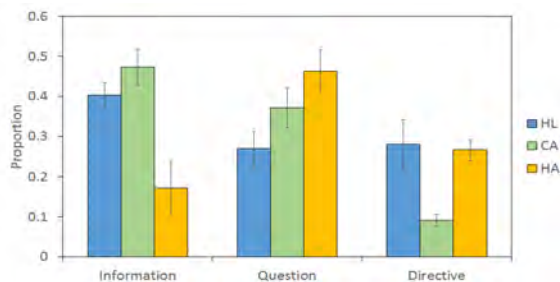
Utterances and Attention

(Chen, Castellanos, Yu, Houston, 2019, *Infancy*)

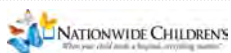
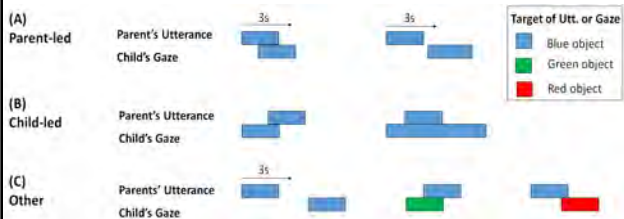
Type	Description	Example
Information	Providing information, such as label, features, or actions, about the toy object	"That's a wawa." "Wawa is green." "It goes round, round, round."
Question	Asking a question about the toy object	"Why do you like this one?" "Oh, is that a hammer?"
Directive	Telling or directing child to do something	"Spin it." "Show me the wawa."
Other	Utterances that do not fit in the above-mentioned types	"I like this one." "Oh, well, that one."



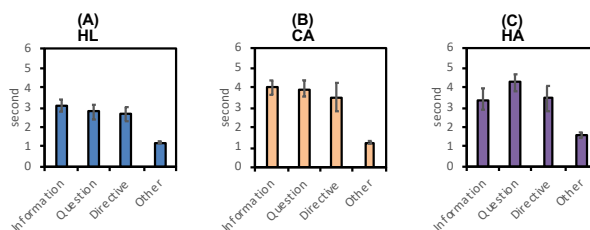
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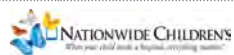
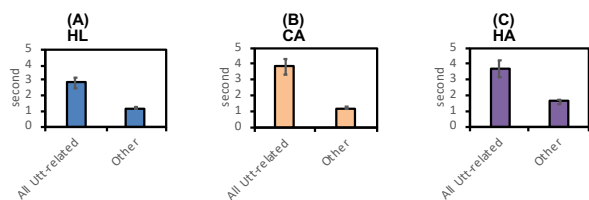
Utterances and Attention



Utterances and Attention

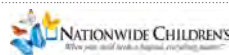


Utterances and Attention



Three Studies/Analyses

1. Object-related utterances by parents and child attention to objects
 - Less effect on children with HL
2. Synchrony of parent naming and child attention
3. Joint attention



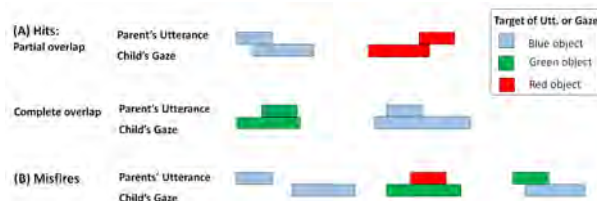
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Naming Synchrony

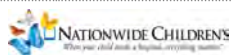
(Chen, Castillanos, Yu, Houston, 2019, *IBaD*)



Naming Synchrony

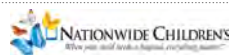
Group	Hits			Total Hits	Misfires
	Partial overlap	Complete overlap			
HL	0.11	0.16		0.27	0.73
CA	0.14	0.32		0.46	0.54
HA	0.13	0.27		0.40	0.60

Table 2. Proportion of Parents' Utterances Categorized as Hits and Misfires.



Three Studies/Analyses

- Object-related utterances by parents and child attention to objects
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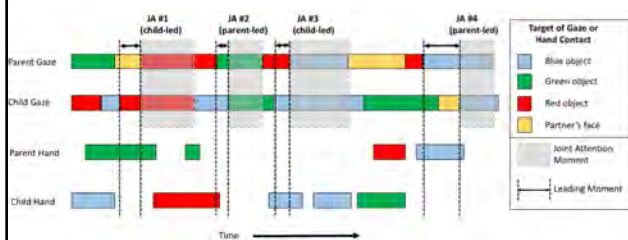
Joint Attention

(Chen, Castellanos, Yu, Houston, in press, *DevSci*)

Participant #	Chronological Age	Hearing age	Sex	HL		Hearing Device		CA Age	HA Age
				Degree of Hearing Loss		Left	Right		
				Left	Right	Cochlear implant	Cochlear implant		
1	24	15	F	profound		Cochlear implant	Cochlear implant	24	15
2	27	22	M	severe		Hearing aid	Hearing aid	25	23
3	28	12	F	profound		Cochlear implant	Cochlear implant	26	12
4	30	10	F	Severe to profound		Cochlear implant	Cochlear implant	28	12
5	34	14	F	severe			Cochlear implant	35	14
6	36	25	F	profound	Mild-moderate		Hearing aid	36	24
7	37	12	M	profound	severe	Cochlear implant	Hearing aid	36	13
Mean age	30.9	15.7						30.0	16.1



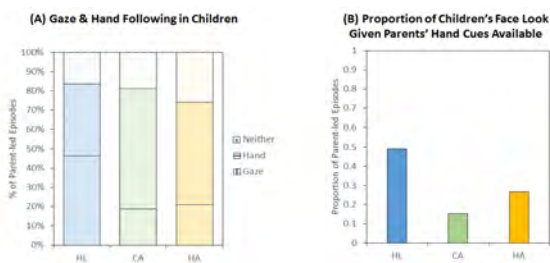
Joint Attention



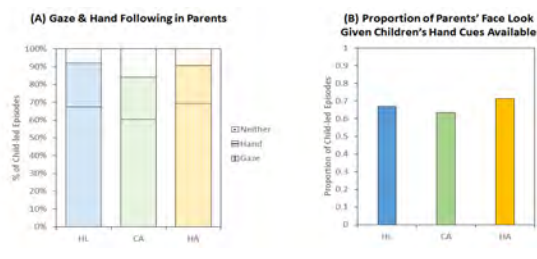
Joint Attention - Results

- No group differences:
 - Number or mean duration of JA episodes
 - % child-led vs parent-led
 - Amount of face looking by parents or children

Parent-Led Joint Attention

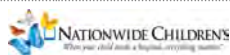


Child-Led Joint Attention



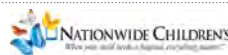
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1. Object-related utterances by parents and child attention to objects
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 - Less synchrony
3. **Joint attention**
 - **More use of face looks by children**

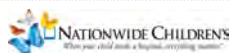
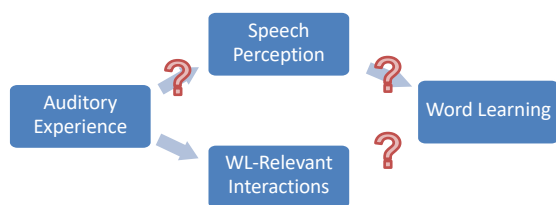


Summary and Conclusions

- The coordination of parents labeling objects when children attend to those objects may be a challenge
- What can be done?
 - General awareness of coordination challenges
 - Things to keep in mind:
 - Talking about objects may be less effective for maintaining children's attention to objects
 - Children may shift attention away from the object the parent is holding to look at the parent's face.
- **But findings are preliminary!**



Next Steps



Future Directions

- Parent-child interactions → Word learning
- Malleability of parent-child interactions
- Does parent-child interaction training lead to better word learning?

