

TALK

DEVELOPMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF BRAZILIAN TWINS IN A HOME SETTING: AN EXPLORATORY STUDY

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ABSTRACT

Home-based innovative research offers valuable insights into early development, especially in twin studies that explore the interaction between genetic and environmental influences. Caring for twins presents unique challenges, as attention must be divided between two infants—potentially affecting developmental outcomes. This longitudinal study assessed the development of Brazilian twin infants at 3 and 6 months of age. Twenty infants (55% boys; 30% monozygotic) were evaluated in their homes using the Bayley Scales of Infant and Toddler Development (Bayley-III). Cognitive, language, and motor domains were directly assessed by trained researchers, while socio-emotional (SE) and adaptive behavior (AB) domains were rated by primary caregivers through standardized questionnaires. The majority of infants (55%) were classified as having low birth weight ($M = 2,352.05$ g). Across all assessments, infants scored above average (>90) in all domains, except for language at six months: 50% scored within the lower average range (80–89) and 5% fell into the borderline range (70–79). A moderate-to-strong positive correlation was found between AB and language scores at six months ($r = 0.589$, $p = 0.044$), highlighting the importance of caregiver responsiveness, environmental stimulation, and interaction opportunities in fostering language development. These findings support the feasibility of administering the Bayley-III to twins in home settings while maintaining standardized procedures. This ecologically valid approach offers a valuable framework for studying development in naturalistic contexts. Ongoing data collection aims to explore whether early language delays in twins are transient or persistent and to compare developmental trajectories between monozygotic and dizygotic pairs. Fapesp:2022/02107-6.