

POSTER

EARLY PEER INTERACTIONS IN BRAZILIAN TWINS: A NATURALISTIC OBSERVATIONAL STUDY

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ABSTRACT

Infants show a marked interest in dyadic interactions during the first year of life. Twin relationships provide an unique opportunity for studying early peer interactions, as they share the same age and similar developmental needs. This study aims to outline a methodology for observing socially directed behaviors (SDBs) in six-month-old twins in a home-based context in Brazil. Naturalistic observation, supported by advances in video recording technology, allows for a detailed evaluation of human interactive behaviors from a psychoethological perspective. The research is a collaborative effort between the USP Twin Panel and the Hospital das Clínicas da Faculdade de Medicina da USP (HCFMUSP). Infants born at HCFMUSP were invited to participate and were video-recorded in their homes for three minutes, with no external interference. Behaviors were broadly categorized into five domains with Observer XT software: gaze, facial expressions, vocalization, touch, and body movements. A SDB was defined as an act accompanied by a glance toward the head of the peer or an act accompanied by an open hand touch. In three dyads, thirteen SDBs occurred during a one-minute video segment. Reciprocated SDB was also observed: one infant looked at the sibling while vocalizing and received a directed gaze and a touch in response within five seconds. Increasing sample size will enhance the reliability of the findings and support the refinement of this observational approach for studying early twin interactions. Further research will also investigate potential associations between early social behaviors and later developmental outcomes. Supported by: FAPESP, Brazil. Process Number 2022/02107-6.