Critical Review:

Does screen time exposure during infancy have a negative impact on language development?

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This critical review examine

Data Collection

The results of the literature search yielded the following types of articles that met the aforementioned selection criteria: survey design (1), longitudinal design (1), case-control design (1), and informational articles (2).

Results

Zimmerman, Christakas, and Meltzoff (2007) conducted a survey study in order to examine the association between the amount of time children spent viewing television and vocabulary development. A total of 1008 parents of children age 2 to 24 months were surveyed by telephone. Parents were asked questions regarding the amount of time their child spent

demographic characteristics as shown using appropriate statistical comparisons. Delayed language was diagnosed by a developmental pediatrician using general development criteria rather than specific language tests.

The strengths of this study include well-matched control groups, although one limitation is the retrospective reporting employed. A diagnosis of delayed language development was made in the absence of a formal standardized language assessment. The researchers acknowledged the limitation of the screening measure employed. Appropriate multivariate logistic regression modeling was performed to determine the relationship between all significant risk variables and language development. Additionally, an appropriate one-way ANOVA was used to compare group data. Overall, results revealed that children who began watching television prior to 12 months of age and watched more than 2 hours of television per day were approximately 6 times more likely to have language delays. The results are highly suggestive of a relationship between early onset of television viewing and delayed language development.

Informational Articles

The American Academy of Pediatrics (2011) issued a policy statement in order to reaffirm its 1999 statement with respect to media use in children under the age of 2. The article summarized recent research findings addressing this question. In particular,