8. Does Context Affect the Interaction Between Children with FXS and Their Mothers?

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Purpose: The purpose of this research was to determine if context affected how mothers verbally responded to their child's communication acts. The specific research question was: how does context affect the mother's rate of correct linguistic responses to her child's communication acts?

Methods: This study includes 46 children with full mutation Fragile X Syndrome and their mothers. 36 children were male and 10 were female. The children were between 19 and 36 months of age, and the average age was 30.4 months. Maternal age ranged from 20 to 41 years, 32.8 years on average. Participant videos were previously collected by researchers in the participants' homes for three contexts: book, play and snack. 5 minute videos were coded for the three contexts. A child communication act was one that had clear meaning, purpose and was mother-directed. A mother linguistic response was one that helped the child build their vocabulary and assign adult pronunciation and meaning to items. The mother's correct linguistic responses to her child's communication acts were coded using Noldus Observer XT.

Results: We implemented a one-way analysis of variance and tested the effects of mother's rate of correct linguistic responses on child communication acts between the three contexts. Our results indicated that context was not associated with a significant difference between the mother's rate of correct linguistic responses nor with child communication acts.

Conclusions: Within the three different contexts there was no significant difference in terms of the variables studied. Linguistic responses to child communication acts could differ in other contexts, but only the three contexts were observed in this study. The video length of each context included only a small amount of data and subgroups of kids in the overall sample that could have an effect on context were not analyzed.