

shapes on the screen moved aligned with word onsets, favoring not only segmentation but also word-object mappings. At test, fixation time to target objects was measured while both objects remained static on the screen and repetitions of the two words were successively played for four test trials. Results from two groups of 9-month-olds ($N=20$ in each group) differing in gestational age at birth (full term vs. moderate preterm) revealed a highly significant difference ($p < .001$), with only full term participants showing mean target fixations significantly different from chance (60% vs. 49% in the preterm group). Factors responsible for preterm's failure to solve this double segmentation and mapping task will be discussed.

2. Estonian preterm and full term children's early vocabulary

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Child development, including language development can be influenced by preterm birth. The aim of the present study was to compare the size of early vocabulary, use of word categories, and mean length of utterance of Estonian preterm and full term children. The sample consisted of 40 preterm (corrected ages 16–25 months) and two matched groups of full term children. First full term group consisted of 120 children who were matched to the preterm children by age and gender. Second full term group consisted of 109 children who were also matched to the preterm children by age and gender but in addition to that they were matched by size of productive vocabulary. The data were gathered using the Estonian adaptation of MacArthur–Bates Communicative Development Inventory: Words and Sentences. Full term children who were matched by age and gender only had larger vocabulary as compared to the preterm children's vocabulary ($U=1758.5$, $p=0.01$). Poisson regression yielded that age, gender, and preterm birth explained significantly the variance in the vocabulary size. As to the use of word categories, Poisson regressions showed that the same three variables explained significantly variance in proportional use of social terms and predicates. Age alone had significant effect for proportional use of common nouns. Both, age and preterm birth had a significant effect on the proportional use of function words. MLU was shorter in preterm than in full term children ($U=1125.0$, $p=0.002$). Estonian preterm children's vocabulary was slightly smaller than full term children's vocabulary. There was a difference in the proportions of word categories used, as preterm children used more social terms, and less predicates, and function words. When the size of the vocabulary was matched the differences between preterm and full term children's language development did not appear.

3. Executive functions and language development in preterm and full-term children

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The present study aims to compare one group of preterm children (PR) and another group of full-term (FT) children in their executive functions (EFs) and cognitive and linguistic abilities, and to study possible predictors of language development.

Extremely and very preterm children were found to show deficits of small to moderate magnitude in certain EF tasks as compared to full-term children. It still must be determined if these deficits also affect low risk preterm children. Relationships between EFs and language development are well known, particularly those concerning working memory.