COMPARISONS BETWEEN MOTHER-PRETERM INFANT AND FATHER-PRETERM INFANT INTERACTION

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Prematurity can lead difficulties for the interactions between infant and his family. This study compared the interactive behaviors of 6 dyads mother-preterm infants and 6 father-preterm infants which attended a service to monitor the baby development during the first year of life in a Brazilian public university. Premature infants were between three to four months old. The dyads were analyzed in play interactions using the Intera-Diade protocol which categorizes positive, negative and non-interactive behaviors. Comparisons were performed with the Mann-Whitney test. Results suggest no significant differences between parents. However, it was observed that fathers showed more behaviors of playing with the baby, e.g. singing to him, tickling, talking and mothers presented more behaviors of calming the baby, looking at him, waiting for the baby's responses to their initiatives. There were no significant differences in the interaction between the infant and his parents, but the babies showed more positive behaviors during interaction with their mothers, e.g., look at her, smile at her, vocalize at her and more non-interactive behaviors with fathers, e.g. exploring the environment. Observing early interactions between parents and their preterm childrens may contribute to the planning interventions that aim to develop parental skills, increase parental responsiveness and promote child development.