***Behold the canine!*:**

*How does toddlers’ knowledge of typical frames and familiar words interact to influence their sentence processing?*

Research on early language learning has uncovered key features of language input, such as word frequency, in tandem with domain-general learning mechanisms, such as the ability to detect predictable patterns in the input (e.g., Benitez & Smith, 2012; Goodman, Dale, & Li, 2008; Huttenlocher, Haight, Bryk, Seltzer, & Lyons, 1991; Reuter, Emberson, Romberg, & Lew-Williams, in press; Saffran, 2003). Recently, our work with bilingual toddlers suggests that when toddlers have more robust representations of individual words, they are better able to recognize those words in diverse sentences (Potter, Fourakis, Morin-Lessard, Byers-Heinlein, & Lew-Williams, under review). In this study, we test our prediction that monolingual infants (21-27m) will also be better able to display their knowledge of higher-frequency items, but not lower-frequency items, in less familiar sentence contexts.

**Design:**

Modeled closely on ReMix (2a), monolingual toddlers will be presented with items that have both a high- and low-frequency label (e.g., *doggy/puppy*). These words will appear in both Common sentence frames (e.g., *Look at the…*) and Uncommon frames (e.g., *Behold the…*), which simulates the use of L1 (high frequency, common) and L2 (low frequency, uncommon).

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Frame** | **Label** | **Example** | **Bilingual analog** | **Prediction** |
| Common | High-frequency | *Look at the doggy* | Dominant-Single | Easy |
| Common | Low-frequency | *Look at the puppy* | Dominant-Switched | Hard |
| Uncommon | High-frequency | *Behold the doggy* | Non-dominant-Switched | Easy |
| Uncommon | Low-frequency | *Behold the puppy* | Non-dominant-Single | Really hard |

**Items:**

*Frames*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *Common* | *Uncommon* |
| Do you like… | Would you prefer… |
| Look at the | Examine the… |
| Where is… | Which side has |
| Can you find… | Could you spot… |

*Labels*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *High* | *% Says at 24m* | *Low* | *% Says at 24m* | *High-Low Diff* | *Low-frequency “type”* |
| **Dog** | 93 | **Puppy** | 73 | *20* | Subordinate |
| **Bird** | 88 | **Chicken** | 66 | *22* | Subordinate |
| **Cow\*** | 79 | **Animal** | 56 | *23* | Superordinate |
| **Baby** | 91 | **Boy** | 58 | *33* | Subordinate? |
| **Milk** | 86 | **Drink** | 72 | *14* | Basic/Super |
| **Shoe** | 94 | **Boot** | 66 | *28* | Subordinate |
| **Cookie** | 87 | **Food** | 69 | *18* | Superordinate |
| **Ball** | 96 | **Toy** | 71 | *25* | Superordinate |