

Parents adapt their referential expressions to children's developmental level



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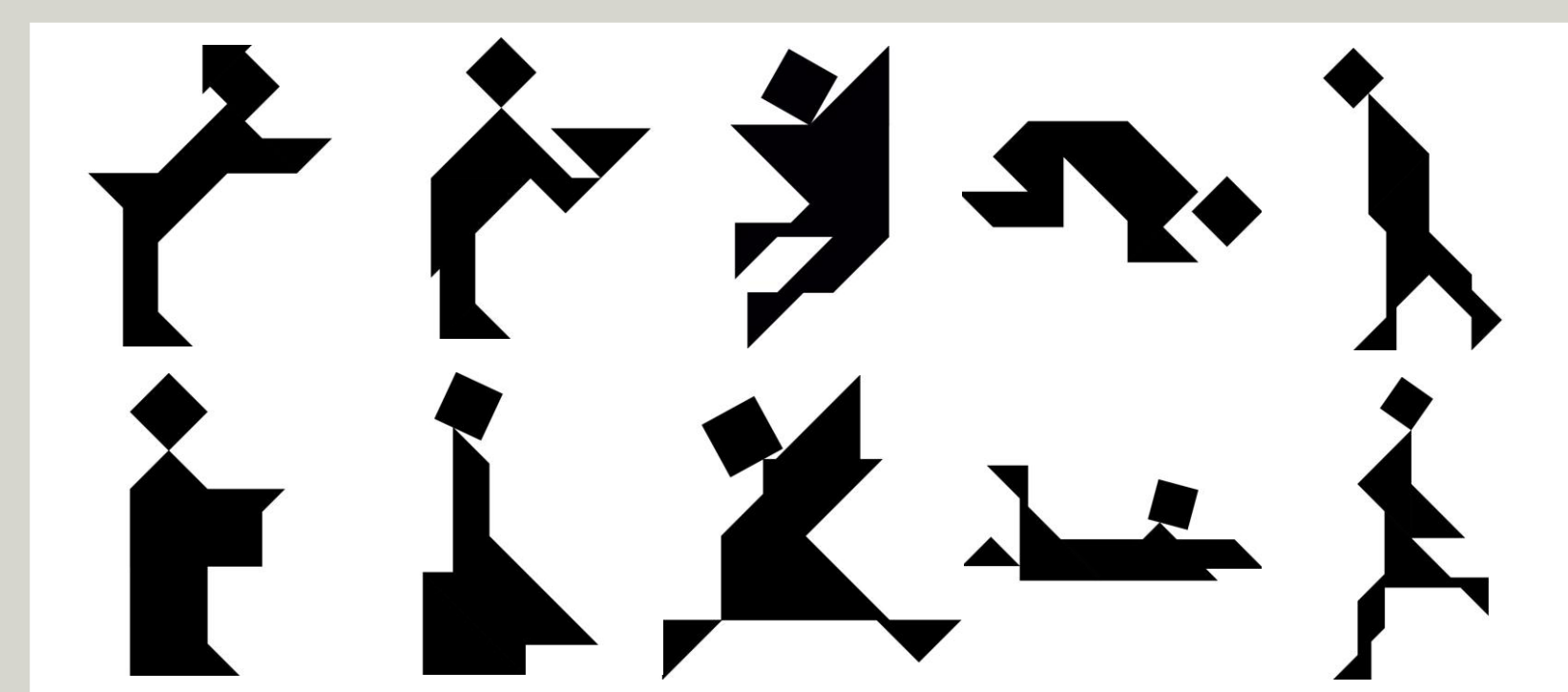
Background:

Adults readily form conceptual pacts with one another in conversation, but young children struggle to do so with their peers (Clark & Wilkes-Gibbs, 1986; Glucksberg & Krauss, 1966).

How might parents scaffold children's referential communication?

Methods:

- Sixty-four parent-child pairs (ages 4, 6, and 8)
- Cooperative reference game on iPads (40 trials)



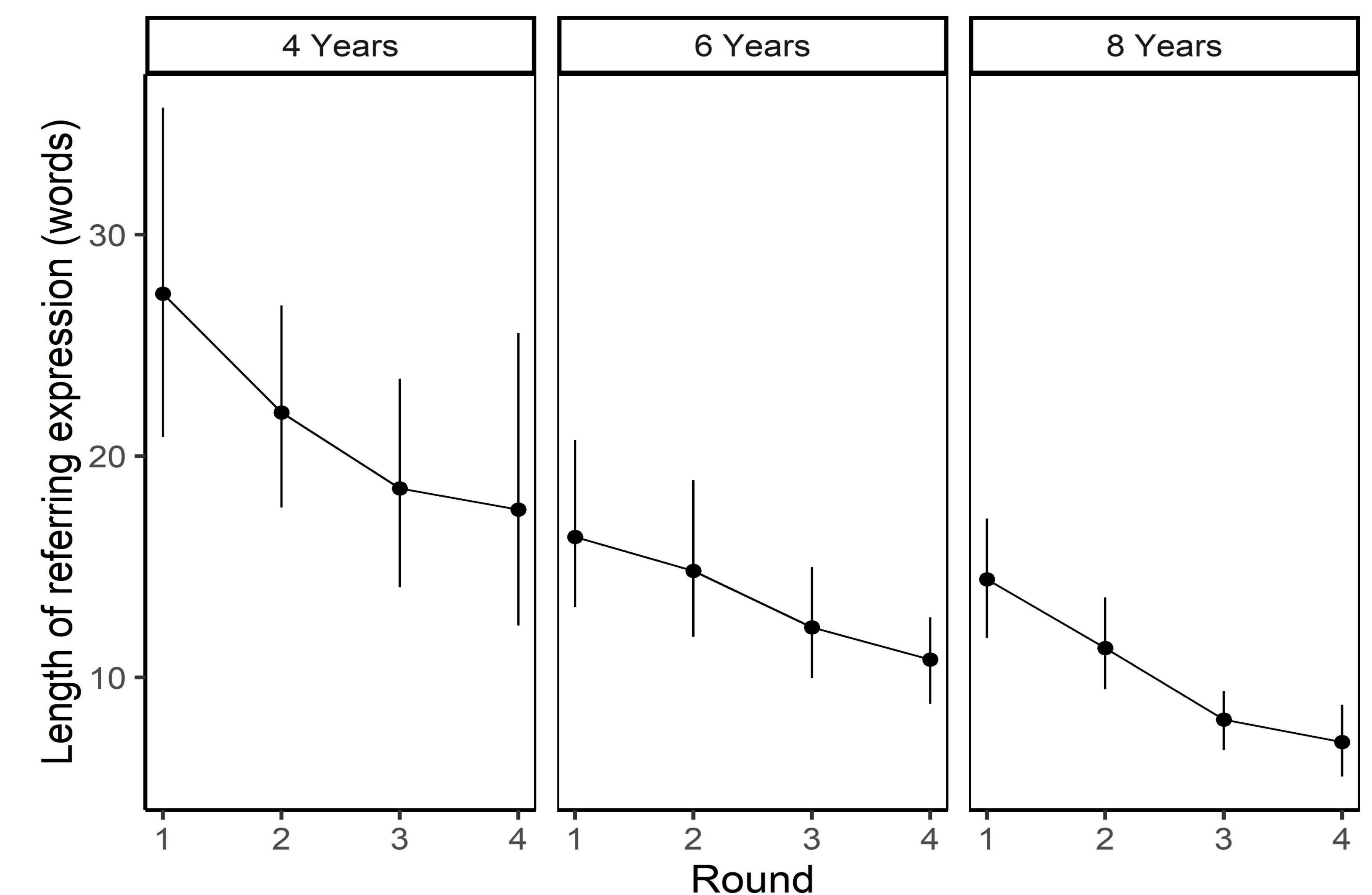
Copy of poster, data, and analysis available here



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Parents-child pairs converge on more efficient reference during a communication game



Parents of younger children produce longer referring expressions

