

Research Highlights

- We conducted a meta-analysis of 60 experiments ($N = 849$ infants) on the syntactic bootstrapping effect in early verb learning.
- We found a small effect size ($d = .24$), despite some evidence for publication bias in the literature.
- The syntactic bootstrapping effect was stronger in experimental conditions using transitive relative to intransitive sentences; neither age nor various methodological factors mediated the effect.
- We quantify the relationship between syntactic bootstrapping and other verb learning strategies, and discuss implications for theories of verb learning.