**BACKGROUND & GOALS**

Learning a language >> a stronger commitment to the native language as development proceeds
Native language neural commitment hypothesis
Prosodic bootstrapping hypothesis [1, 2]

**WHAT MARKERS?**

Support early intervention

**COMPARATIVE & PROSPECTIVE STUDY – FIVE LANGUAGE DOMAINS**

- Normal development
- Language impairments [3, 4]

**EXPERIMENTAL TASKS**

- Pitch discrimination (modified version of visual habitation paradigm)
- Stress discrimination (ET) – see P30, TD infants
- Prosodic bootstrapping hypothesis

**RESULTS**

Speech perception abilities in the 1st year [5], namely early sensitivity to Prosody (word stress, pitch/intonation, prosodic grouping)

**REFERENCES**

- Kuhl, J. et al. (2008) Phonetic learning as a pathway to language: New data and native language magnet theory expanded (1, 2)
- Griffiths Scales
- Abbeduto; BPD
- Gervain
- TCD*
- In: Infancy 19, 2: 194 - 213.
- Weber et al. (2005) Reduced stress pattern discrimination in 5 month olds
- Hoehle, B. (2009). Early language markers of later language abilities (TD, at-risk infants; see P30, TD infants
- Abbeduto
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- Grifiths Scales
- Abbeduto et al. (2013) Discriminating Down Syndrome and Fragile X Syndrome infants (10 mo) as able to discriminate utterances on the basis of intonation, as early as 3 months [9]
- Parental reports (mean ± standard deviation)

**METHOD**

- Babylab
- EP-CDI SFI: Production
- EP-CDI SFI: Comprehension
- EP-CDI SFI: Production
- Ep-cdi stfi: comprehension
- Ep-cdi stfi: production

**EXPECTED OUTCOMES**

- Early markers of language acquisition
- Predictors of later language abilities
- Normal development (faster, later)

**TURNAROUND**

- My language!
- Early markers of language development in Down Syndrome are largely unknown

**TEAM**

- CLUL, ULisbon; FPCE, UPorto; CIS, ISCTE; Diferenças (APPT21)
- Consultants: UC Davis Mind Inst.; Univ. Gothenburg; Diferenças

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