

Knowledge retention after taking part in a parental intervention on supporting multilingual development

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Parent-directed interventions can improve the child-directed speech and thereby enhance children's language development (Reese et al., 2010). Multilingual children experience limited language input in any single language, thus, bilingual families are an important target group for parent-directed early language interventions (Luk & Bialystok, 2013). Previous studies rarely re-test participants' knowledge after an extended period, while limited existing evidence suggests that knowledge retention may be low (Sowa et al., 2021). We designed a research-based online intervention for expectant Polish-speaking parents living in Norway and tested parental knowledge about language development and parental behaviors that promote it immediately before (T1) and after (T2) the intervention. We randomly assigned N = 74 parents to experimental (n = 40) or control (n = 34) conditions. Repeated measures ANOVA showed a significant effect of time ($F(72,1) = 30.27, p < .001$) and a significant effect of the interaction between time and group ($F(72,1) = 11.79, p < .001$), indicating that parental knowledge increased and that the increase was significantly more prominent in the experimental group. We further investigated knowledge retention in a subset of participants (N = 40, n_exp = 15, n_cont = 25) by adding to the model the level of parental knowledge when their children were about 9 months old (T3). A repeated measures ANOVA revealed a significant effect of time ($F(37,2) = 16.54, p < .001$) and a significant effect of group ($F(38,1) = 4.86, p = 0.034$), indicating an increase in knowledge that was retained over about 9 months (from T1 to T3). Post-hoc analysis showed no difference between knowledge at the posttest (T2) and knowledge at 9 months of children's age (T3) in either group, showing no knowledge attrition over time. Our intervention can be seen as an effective way of improving parental knowledge about language development in a multilingual context.