

ON THE INFLUENCE OF AGE IN THE SUCCESS OF THE EARLY STIMULATION TREATMENT



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During the first years of life of a newborn, the environment is provided almost exclusively through its parents (Sanz and Menéndez, 1999, 2010).

With **early stimulation treatment**, parents are **informed of the prognosis for their child**, which allows: **disperse their guilt feelings** and **familiarise them with direct intervention techniques** (Sanz, Menéndez and Rosique, 2011).

Starting point of our study:

- The proved efficacy of early treatment
- The decisive role played by the parents in this training

HYPOTHESIS:

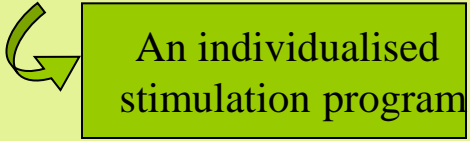
The levels of development exhibited by these babies could be considerably improved if the treatment is started as soon as the disturbance is detected.

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□ PARTICIPANTS:

- Sample of 30 Down syndrome babies: 17 boys and 13 girls (none of them displayed associated disturbance).
- The sample was distributed in three subgroups:
 - -**Ag0**: 10 babies between fifteen days and one month
 - -**Ag3**: 10 babies between three and four months
 - -**Ag6**: 10 babies between six and seven months

□ PROCEDURE:

- Diagnostic examination
 - Observation period
 - The social interview
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- An individualised stimulation program
- *Performance criteria for achieving the objectives:*
 - The achievement of 75 % of the items proposed.
 - The clinician in the session, but the mother was present, too.
 - The mothers were supposed to practice the exercises set up for the week at home, for 60 minutes.

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■ *Areas:*

- Gross Motor -MG
- Fine Motor -MF
- Language -L
- Social-self-help –S

■ *Tests:*

- Brunet-Lèzine's First Childhood Scale

■ Revision's periods:

- three months (Rev3)
- six months (Rev6)
- nine months (Rev9)
- twelve months (Rev12)
- eighteen months (Rev18)

□ **DESIGN:**

■ **IV:**

- a) age at start of treatment
- b) revisions periods

- **DV:** the development quotient (DQ) obtained by the subjects in four areas of development in each revision

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RESULTS:

	REVISIONS					
	*initial diagnostic DQ					
AGE	Initial DQ	Rev ₃	Rev ₆	Rev ₉	Rev ₁₂	Rev ₁₈
Age ₀	70*	72,05	74,43	76,58	77,96	78,5
Age ₃		65,20*	68,03	69,99	68,95	69,43
Age ₆			61,21*	63,84	62,95	63,74*

F (3, 18) = 67,9850 (p<0.001)

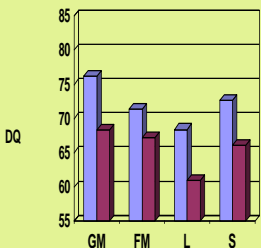
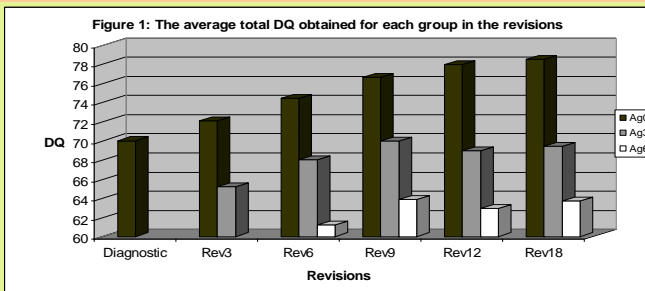


Figure 2: DQ in Rev3

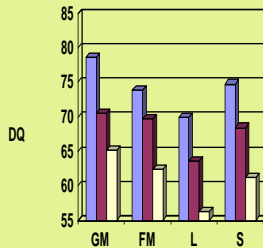


Figure 3: DQ in Rev6

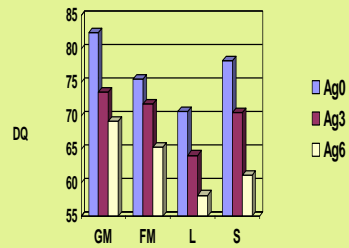


Figure 4: DQ in Rev9

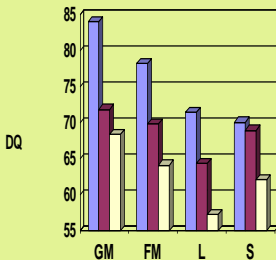


Figure 5: DQ in Rev12

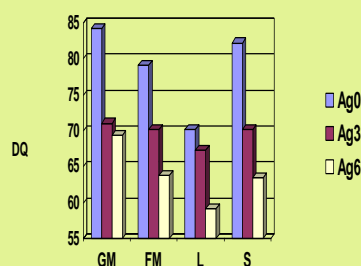


Figure 6: DQ in Rev18

CONCLUSION:

The best scores were achieved by those children who started the treatment soon after being born.