

Longitudinal analysis of the musical structuring of early triadic interactions

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Background

Research on communicative musicality shows that music is essential in the first few months of life, since adults and babies interact through musical structured signs.

While classical theories have only focused on dyadic interactions (adult-baby), today we know that, from birth, adults actively involve babies in early triadic interactions (adult-baby-object), long before the origin of children's intentionality.

This research

This study aimed at describing the dynamics of the musical organization of early triadic interactions and its development over different timescales.

Method

Six infants (three male, three female) at **3, 6 and 9 months** of age interacting with their mother/father at home and a small sized maraca.

Videos were coded using **ELAN** software and a microgenetic procedure (frame-by-frame) for analyzing how the organization of the interactions unfold over the three time points.

Results

Observation 1. 'P2MMC' 0; 2, 27.

Baby: brief oral exploration of the object.
Mom: distant demonstrations of the use of the object.



Observation 2. 'P4MOB' 0; 6, 1.

Baby: non-canonical and proto-canonical uses.
Mom: distant demonstrations, touch, posture adjustment.



Observation 3. 'P4MOB' 0; 9, 7.

Baby: mostly proto-canonical uses.
Mom: gives space and supports the baby through verbal inputs.



Conclusions

- Interactions between adult and baby took place **with and through** the object.
- **Babies** performed numerous uses of the object of increasing **complexity**.
- **Adults'** strategies were **flexible** and adjusted to the baby's increasing autonomy and participating skills.