Diagnosis and Early Intervention with Children Born Preterm
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*Purpose:* Children born preterm are at a higher risk of being diagnosed with neurodevelopmental disorders. Numerous studies have documented the difficulty these children have with language development. The primary aim of this study was to evaluate the diagnoses and early intervention received by children born preterm.

*Methods:* Eighty-three children participated. The children were born between 24 and 36 weeks gestational age (GA). Families were invited to participate in a neurodevelopmental follow-up study when their children were 30 months of age (+ or – 2 weeks). Parents completed a questionnaire that included previous diagnoses and intervention history. Children were administered the Language (Receptive & Expressive) subtests of the Bayley III or the Test of Expressive Language Development-3, and the Receptive One Word Vocabulary Test and the Expressive One Word Vocabulary Test.

*Results:* The data from the questionnaire yielded a 13% rate of diagnosis of language delay prior to 30 months of age (n=12). Of these twelve children, 11 continued to exhibit delays at 30 month testing and 75% (n=9) had or were currently receiving language intervention. Based on our assessment at 30 months, all but one of the twelve continued to display language delays as determined by a standard score of less than 85 on one or more measure. Of the remaining 71 children who did not have a previous diagnosis of language delay, a total of 35, or 49% of the sample displayed language delays.

*Conclusions:* These data are consistent with previous studies of low identification of language delays prior to 30 months of age. Increased effort on early identification and referral are warranted.