Introduction

The maternal responsiveness of the mother during their child’s development is a crucial element of early childhood development. This is especially true in the case of preterm infants, who are at risk for delays in language and social development. The relationship between maternal responsiveness and early child development has been well documented in the literature. For example, a study by Landry, Smith, Swank, Assel, & Marquis (2011) found a strong correlation between maternal responsiveness and social development in infants born preterm. Similarly, Yoder & Warren (2001) found that children with cognitive disabilities who had responsive mothers were more likely to develop normally.

Method

Two hundred and sixty children and their mothers were involved in this study. The children were divided into two groups based on their age (6-18 months). The mothers were divided into two groups based on their educational level (high school diploma or GED, and some college). The data was collected through audio and video recording of the interactions between the mother and child. The interactions were coded for instances of the use of imperatives, which have been shown to increase sucking for babies while in the NICU.

Results & Discussion

The results of the study showed that the use of imperatives by mothers was significantly correlated with the child’s language development. The mothers who used more imperatives were more likely to have children with higher language scores. This suggests that maternal responsiveness can have a positive impact on early child development.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the study provides evidence for the importance of maternal responsiveness in the development of early child development. Maternal responsiveness can be increased through training and education, and this can lead to better outcomes for children. Further research is needed to explore the mechanisms underlying this relationship and to develop effective interventions to improve maternal responsiveness.