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ORIGINAL ARTICLE

## Comparison of anxiety and child-care education characteristics of mothers who have children with or without speech delays<sup>☆</sup>

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### KEYWORDS

Mother;  
Anxiety level;  
Speech delay;  
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### Abstract

**Introduction:** Speech delay in a child could be the cause and/or result of the emotional disorder. The child rearing attitude that the parents have accepted could have both positive and negative effects on the personality of the child.

**Objective:** The current study aimed to investigate the sociodemographic features and the mothers' anxiety of children with speech delay.

**Methods:** One hundred five mothers with children aged between 3 and 6 years with speech delays were included in the patient group, and 105 mothers who have children aged between 3 and 6 years with normal speech and language development were included in the control group. An information form questionnaire including demographic characteristics, the Family Life and Childrearing Attitude Scale (PARI – Parental Attitude Research Instrument) and beck anxiety scale were requested from all mothers in the patient and the control groups.

**Results:** In the current study, there was a significant difference between the groups in terms of gender ( $p=0.001$ ). According to Parental Attitude Research Instrument, the mean of mothers of the children with speech delays was higher than the mean of mothers of normal children

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in terms of the answers to overprotective mother aspect ( $p < 0.01$ ). The mothers of children with speech delays had more overprotective motherhood attitudes; however, the difference in terms of the answers to the aspects of democratic attitude and provision of equality, refusal to be a housewife, husband-wife conflict, and suppression and discipline were not statistically significant. The beck anxiety scale, a significant difference was detected between the two groups ( $p < 0.01$ ). It was found that the mothers of children with speech delays had more severe levels of anxiety.

**Conclusion:** The social structure of the family, the attitudes and the behaviors of the mother, and the anxiety levels of the mothers have important effects on child development. Thus, it is necessary to perform further studies related to speech delays, in which many factors play a role in the etiology.

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## PALAVRAS-CHAVE

Mãe;  
Nível de Ansiedade;  
Atraso na fala;  
Escala de ansiedade  
de Beck;  
PARI

## Comparação da ansiedade e características da educação infantil em mães com filhos com ou sem atrasos na fala

### Resumo

**Introdução:** O atraso da fala em uma criança pode ser a causa e/ou o resultado de distúrbio emocional. As atitudes tomadas pelos pais na educação da criança podem ter efeitos positivos e negativos sobre a personalidade infantil.

**Objetivo:** O presente estudo teve como objetivo investigar as características sócio-demográficas e a ansiedade das mães de crianças com atraso na fala.

**Método:** Foram incluídas no grupo de pacientes 105 mães com crianças entre 3 e 6 anos de idade e atrasos na fala, e no grupo controle 105 mães com crianças na mesma faixa etária e desenvolvimento normal da fala e da linguagem. Foi solicitado às mães de ambos os grupos o preenchimento de informações em um formulário, incluindo características demográficas, o instrumento *Family Life and Child rearing Attitude Scale* (PARI – *Parental Attitude Research Instrument*) e o inventário de ansiedade Beck.

**Resultados:** No estudo atual, houve diferença significativa entre os grupos em relação ao gênero ( $p = 0,001$ ). De acordo com o instrumento *Parental Attitude Research Instrument*, a média das mães das crianças com atrasos na fala foi maior do que a média das mães de crianças normais em relação às respostas sobre superproteção materna ( $p < 0,01$ ). As mães de crianças com atrasos na fala apresentaram mais atitudes de proteção materna excessiva; no entanto, a diferença das respostas sobre atitudes democráticas e igualitarismo, recusa do papel de dona de casa, conflito marital e disciplina rígida não foram estatisticamente significantes. No Inventário de ansiedade Beck, foi encontrada uma diferença significativa entre os dois grupos ( $p < 0,01$ ). Verificou-se que as mães de crianças com atrasos na fala apresentavam níveis mais graves de ansiedade.

**Conclusão:** A estrutura social da família, as atitudes, o comportamento e os níveis de ansiedade das mães têm efeitos importantes no desenvolvimento da criança. Conclui-se, portanto, a necessidade de realizar estudos adicionais relacionados aos atrasos na fala, nos quais diversos fatores desempenham um papel etiológico.

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## Introduction

Speech delay is defined as inability to demonstrate speech-language skills that is expected according to the age. The prevalence of speech delay in children between aged 2 and 7 varies at the range of 2.3–19%. Speech delay throughout school period and continuing even at adulthood is observed in 5–8% of the children who had speech delay during preschool period.<sup>1</sup>

There are many factors that could cause speech delays. The most frequently reported risk factors for speech delays are positive family history, male gender, a history of prematurity, and low birth weight. Other risk factors that are thought to be less associated are low education level of the parents, history of childhood disease, late birth sequence, older parents, low socioeconomic status, and the presence of a large family.<sup>2,3</sup>

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