

Increasing Conversational Turns Through Shared Reading

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Parent-Infant Program

Sunshine Cottage School for Deaf Children Parent-Infant Program is dedicated to:

- supporting and coaching parents to help their baby with hearing impairment learn to listen and talk
- guiding parents to be an advocate for their child

We believe that babies under the age of three, with any degree of hearing impairment, can learn to listen and talk IF:

- hearing loss is identified early (preferably newborn-6 months)
- child has access to appropriate hearing technology and dynamic audiological management
- parents commit to including auditory-verbal strategies in their daily life

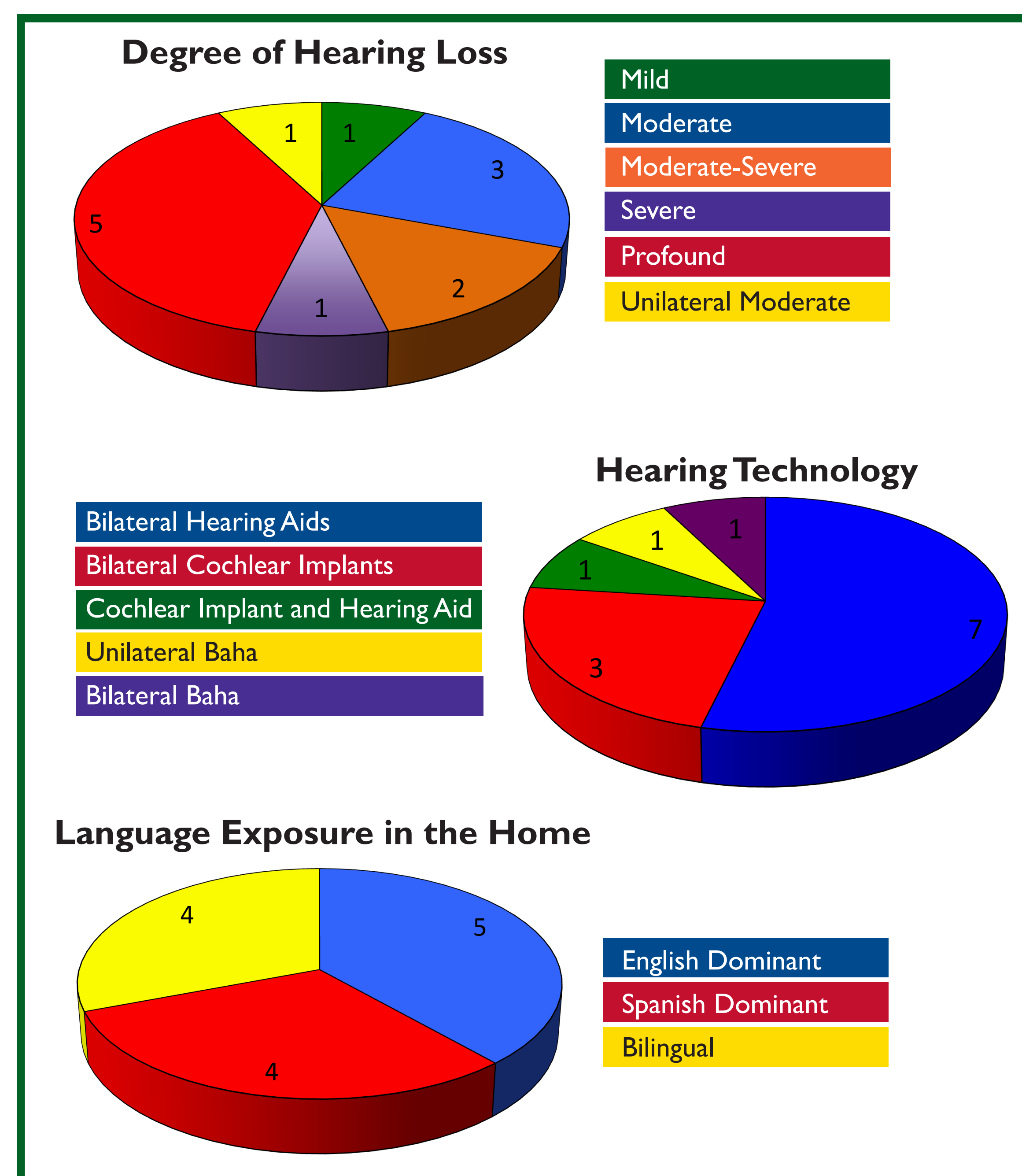
This powerful combination of factors is the most effective way for a baby with hearing impairment to learn to listen and talk.

Question: Does Direct Coaching of Dialogic Reading Strategies Increase Conversational Turns (CT)?

Participants:

There are presently 69 families in the PIP program. All families have the opportunity to wear the LENA, and receive information and coaching on shared reading strategies.

For the purpose of our study we chose 13 families that had low conversational turns to see if we could effect an increase in the number of daily conversational turns. The children ranged in age from 2 months to 36 months from English dominant, Spanish dominant or bilingual families of varying SES.



Intervention

LENA Recording Frequency:

Baseline + 3 recordings at 2 month intervals during a six month time frame (January 2012-June 2012)

During weekly/bi-weekly sessions families were coached using these three (3) dialogic reading strategies:

1. CELL Handouts

The handouts are available online from the Center for Early Literacy Learning (C.E.L.L.) at <http://www.earlyliteracylearning.org/>. The goal of C.E.L.L. is to promote the adoption and sustained use of evidence-based early literacy learning practices. We selected the category of Literacy Learning Experiences for Infant or Toddler. Some of these handouts are also available in Spanish.



2. Book bags

In conjunction with the CELL handouts, families took home bags containing five books from their regular session. Families would then return the book bag at their next session and receive a different one.

3. S.T.A.I.R.

Information gained from LENA has led us to establish a mnemonic that helps parents easily recall five Auditory-Verbal strategies vital to the facilitation of listening and spoken language: S.T.A.I.R. Each of the strategies is directly related to a LENA system measure.

| Strategy | Measured by |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| S Stay Close | Meaningful speech |
| T Talk, Talk, Talk | Adult Words |
| A Auditory Environment | Audio Environment |
| I Interactions | Conversational Turns |
| R Repeat Routines | Conversational Turns or Adult Words Listening to LENA recordings for repeated occurrence of daily routine language |

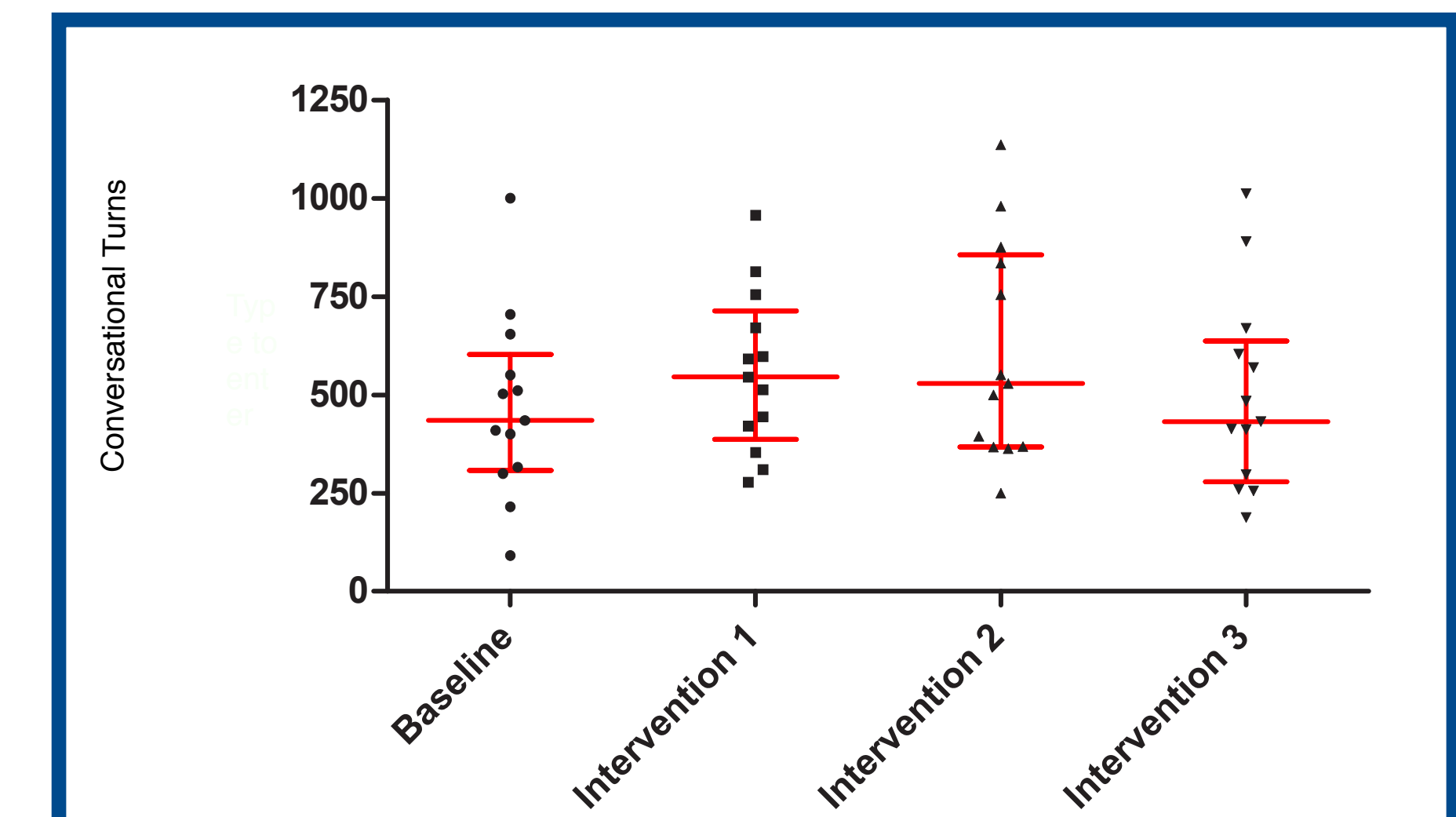


Results

Repeated Measures ANOVA

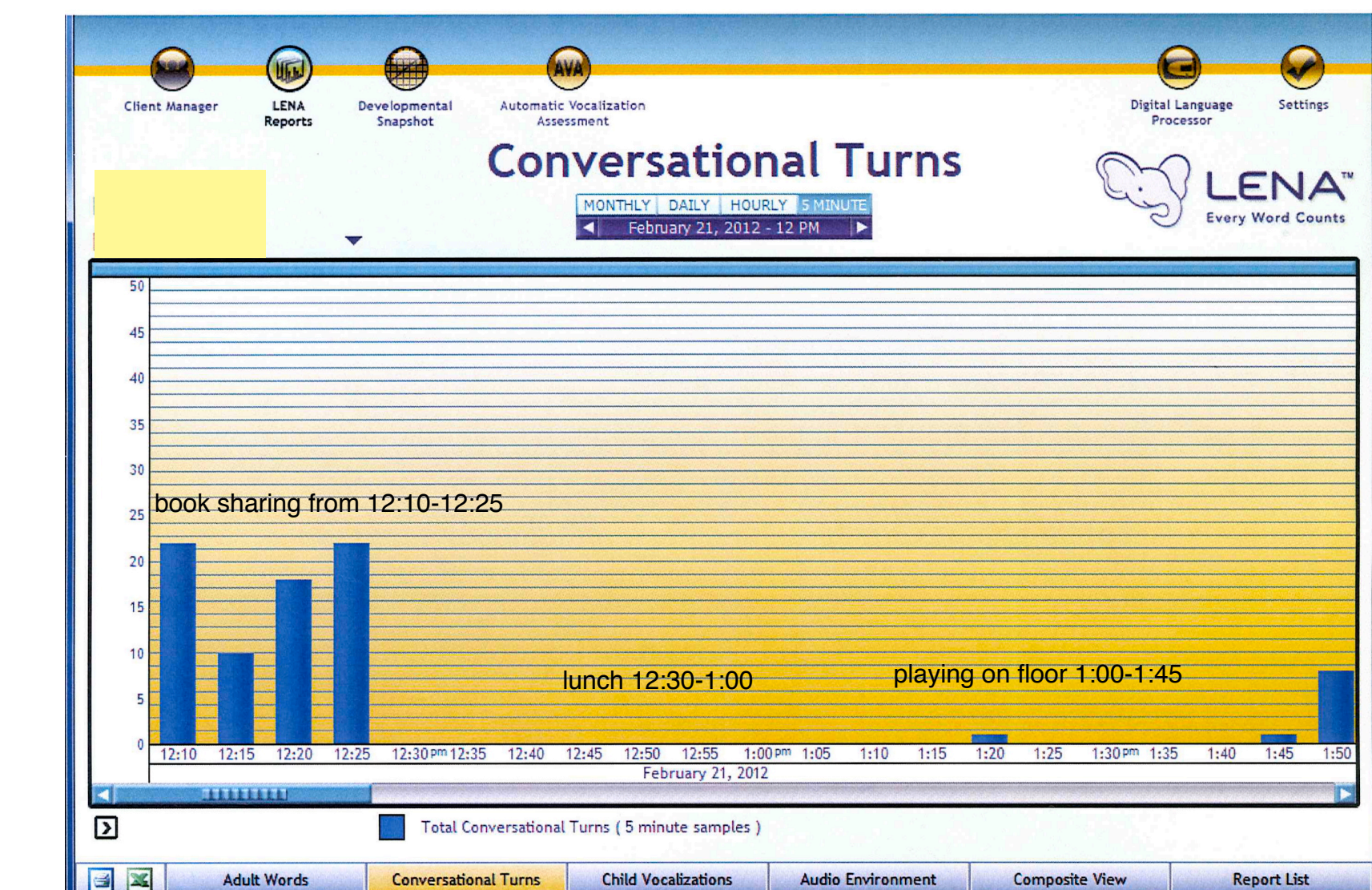
P value = 0.32

P value ~ not significant (P < 0.05)

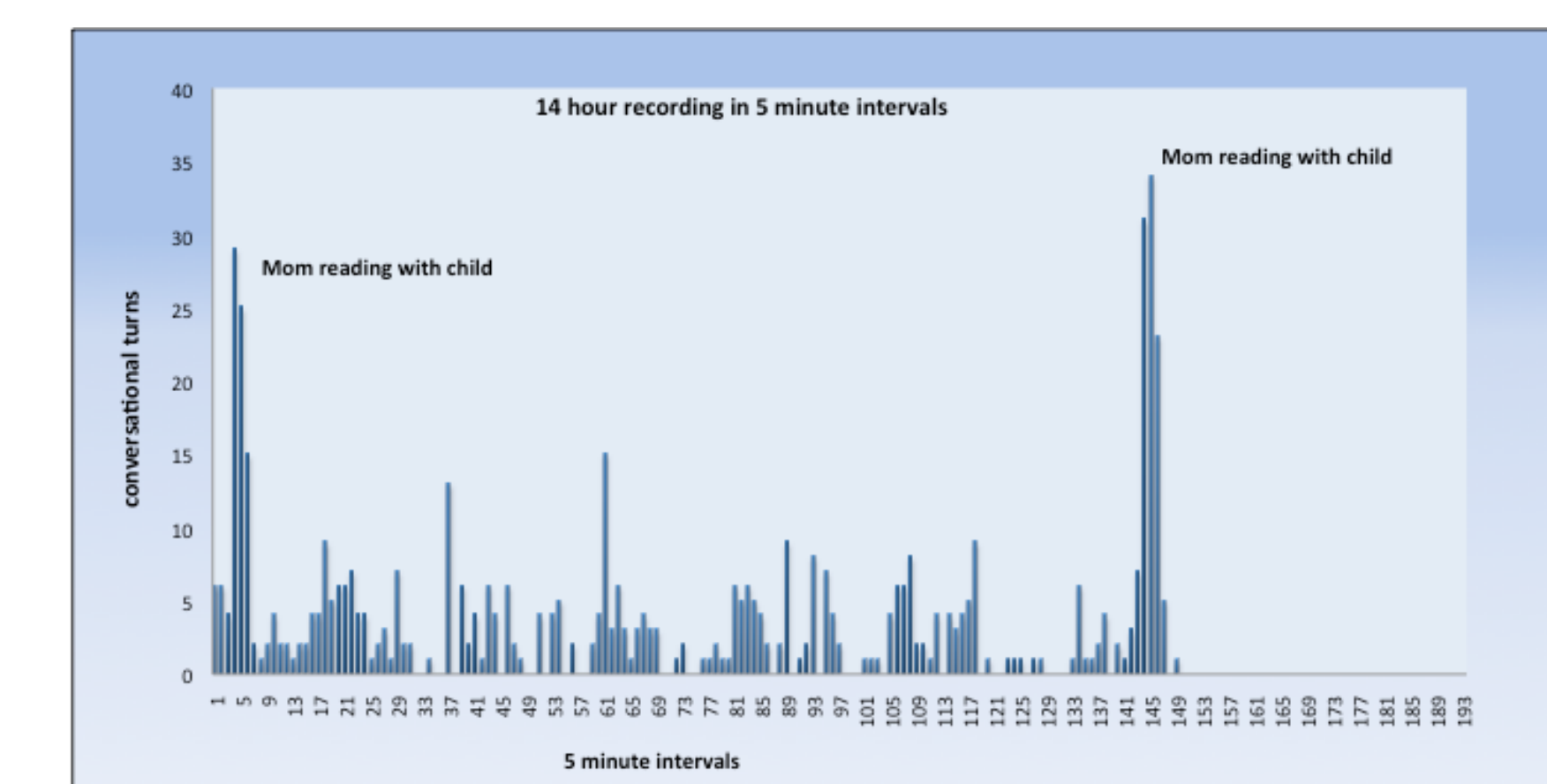


Our data was close to showing significance. However, outliers in both directions affected the results. It was also difficult to show significance with just 13 participating families. The more interesting outcome of this study was the 5 minute segment analyses of individual families when involved in dialogic reading. We listened to the highest 5 minute CT peaks to verify the interaction between parent and child and discovered that it contained dialogic reading.

The following charts capture the magic of the reading moment.



We learned the ADEX charts can also be used as a valuable coaching tool. The peaks of CTs revealed in 5 minute segments over the entire day's recording in the ADEX chart make a greater visual impact on parents than the LENA charts.



Conclusion:

Dialogic reading increases conversational turns.

Our challenge is to:

1. Increase family awareness of the importance of conversational turns for language development.
2. Coach families emphasizing the "I" (Interactions) in the STAIR strategies to seize moments throughout their daily routines to increase conversational turns.