



Fathers and Late Preterm Babies Study

(Effects of an Intervention on Fathers' Interactions with Infants Born at 34 to 36 Wks. Gestation)

Purpose of the study:

To see if home visits with a first-time father and his late preterm baby make a difference in the father's interaction skills.

Background:

Fathers want to be involved with their babies and want to help them grow and develop. Babies grow and develop through play interactions. On average when late preterm babies (34 to 36 weeks gestation) grow up, they have outcomes that are similar to children who are born full term, but some lag behind. Unless they have other health problems, late preterm babies are not eligible for programs to support their development. We also know that late preterm babies do better than babies who are born very early when they have support for their development. There are a lot of programs for mothers, but few are designed specifically to assist fathers to help their babies grow and develop.

Our research team designed and tested a new program for fathers of healthy, full term babies. The program made a difference in how a father played with his baby. We want to test this new program with first-time fathers of babies born a little early (between 34 and 36 weeks gestation).

What happens for study participants:

- ✓ Enrollment into the study before the baby is 4 months old
- ✓ Fathers are randomly assigned to a study group
- ✓ Mothers and fathers complete mailed questionnaires before home visits
- ✓ Receive up to 5 home visits where father is video-taped showing the baby how to play with a new toy (about 1 hour each visit)

Who do we need?

- ✓ First-time, biological fathers of babies born between 34 and 36 weeks gestation

What's in it for you?

- ✓ There may be no direct benefit to you or your baby
- ✓ Information from this study may help other fathers and late preterm babies

Questions or Comments?

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