Articulatory speed from 9 to 21 months: Task effects

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This longitudinal study investigates the role of physiologic, cognitive, and linguistic factors in speech development. The orofacial movements of 24 infants were recorded using a motion capture system every three months from 9 to 21 months of age. Each session provided the infant and parent dyad to engage in various communicative contexts. The study examined how maximum speed changed with age and how the developmental course for these variables differ across orofacial behaviors (spontaneous movements, babbles, and words). Maximum speed and interarticulator coordination of the lips and jaw generally increased with age. The type of orofacial behavior also affected the developmental course of the speed.