Infants with more complex manipulation had greater language skills at 2, 3, and 5 years.

**BACKGROUND:**
- Gains in early motor skills like sitting and walking predict advanced later language.
- Differences in how infants manipulate objects (measured as complexity trajectories) may be a novel way to index fine motor skill.
- Hypothesis: What babies do with their hands is tied to their language learning environments through a motor-language cascade.

**METHODS:**
- 90 infants participated in the project.
- Manipulation complexity was coded from video for 6 visits from 9 to 14 months.
- Language was assessed using the Preschool Language Scales for 3 visits at 2, 3, and 5 years.

**RESULTS:**
Two complexity patterns (high/average) were identified using latent class growth analysis.

**Manipulation Complexity from 9-14 months predicts language ability at 2, 3, and 5 years**

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