**Maternal reflective functioning and dyadic synchrony**

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Research has demonstrated that mother’s ability to think insightfully about themselves and their babies are associated with a wide range of child psychosocial outcomes. The Working Model of the Child Interview (WMCI: Zeanah et al., 1994), used in the current study, has been associated with infant attachment, dyadic interactional quality, and maternal mental health. The WMCI explores the “meaning” a baby has to his or her parent by asking about perceptions of the relationship, the child, and parenting experiences. In this pilot study, the WMCI was administered to three expectant/new mothers’ to assess mental representations of their babies. A 7-point reflective functioning scale was used to code the interview and determine a score representing how involved the mother was in thinking about her baby’s mental states (i.e. cognitions and emotions).These mothers had followed through on a referral by their nurse midwife for early intervention services. The quality of dyadic synchronous interaction, the mothers’ sensitivity to her baby, and the baby’s cooperativeness during play was evaluated using the CARE-Index (Crittenden, 1981). Babies ranged between 6 weeks and 4 months. The hypothesis is that mothers with detailed, insightful representations will be more sensitive and will have more harmonious interactions with their infants. These associations will be explored via qualitative analyses. This work was supported by MSU Undergraduate Research Fellowships and an MSU AHRC grant.