3.2 Caregiver-Infant Interactions: Reciprocity and Interactional Synchrony: 10-minute Pack

AQA 7182 · about 10 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions.

1 Define 'interactional synchrony' in the context of caregiver-infant interactions and early attachment. Include what behaviours are matched during synchrony.

(Total for Question 1 is 2 marks)

2 A researcher hypothesises that higher caregiver-infant interactional synchrony at 3 months predicts stronger social engagement at 12 months. Identify the appropriate statistical approach to test this hypothesis and justify your choice in one sentence.

(Total for Question 2 is 3 marks)

3 Explain one clear difference between reciprocity and interactional synchrony when describing caregiver-infant interaction. Use an example to illustrate the difference in practice.

(Total for Question 3 is 4 marks)

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Mark scheme · 3.2 Caregiver-Infant Interactions: Reciprocity and Interactional Synchrony: 10-minute Pack

Question 1

identifies interactional synchrony as mirroring or matching of rhythm, facial expressions or body movements between caregiver and infant oe	**B1**
states that behaviour is coordinated in time so both partners display similar actions simultaneously oe	**B1**

Answer: Interactional synchrony is when caregiver and infant mirror each other's facial expressions, gestures or rhythms so their behaviour is coordinated and matched in timing.

Question 2

identifies correlation as the appropriate statistical approach oe	**B1**
justifies that both synchrony and later social engagement are measured variables not manipulated oe	**M1**
adds that a correlational test (e.g. Spearman's or Pearson's depending on data level) would assess the relationship between the two measures oe	**A1**

Answer: A correlational approach is appropriate because both synchrony at 3 months and social engagement at 12 months are measured variables; use Spearman's or Pearson's correlation depending on the measurement level to assess their association.

Question 3

states a valid difference, e.g. reciprocity is turn-taking and contingent response while synchrony is simultaneous mirroring oe	**M1**
explains reciprocity: one partner responds after the other, producing a back-and-forth sequence oe	**A1**
explains synchrony: both partners show similar behaviour at the same time, matching rhythm or expression rather than alternating oe	**A1**
gives an example illustrating the difference, e.g. reciprocity like a mother smiles then waits for the infant to smile back; synchrony like mother and infant smiling at the same time and making matching movements oe	**A1**

Answer: Reciprocity involves turn-taking and contingent responses, with one person responding after the other; interactional synchrony involves simultaneous mirroring of facial expressions, rhythm or movements. For example, reciprocity is a mother who smiles and waits for her baby to smile back before speaking, whereas synchrony is mother and baby smiling and moving together in time.

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