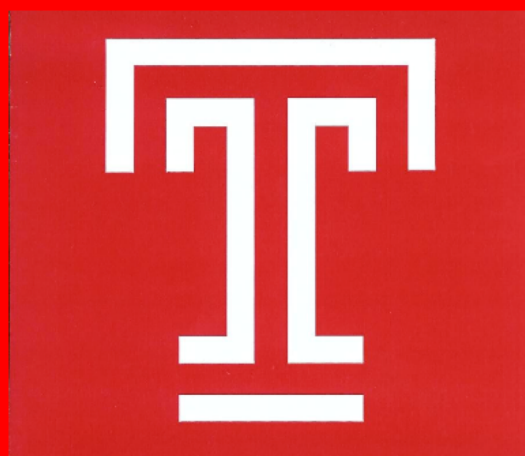


Screening Two-Year-Olds for Language Issues through Comprehension: Convergent Validity of the Baby QUILS with the MCDI



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INTRODUCTION

- Language delay is associated with difficulties in later academic achievement¹
- Early intervention can help ameliorate these long lasting effects²
- Current parent-report assessments, like the MCDI, only assess vocabulary and syntax³
 - The Baby QUILS, a downward extension of the Quick Interactive Language Screener (QUILSTM), in development with more items that the planned final version, directly screens toddlers for comprehension delays in three areas of language: vocabulary, syntax, and language learning process⁴



Is the Baby QUILS associated with established language measures like the MCDI?

PARTICIPANTS

- 51 two-year-olds (26 males)
 - $M_{age} = 28.97$ months, $SD_{age} = 3.12$
 - 78% of children were white
 - Majority of parents had a bachelor's degree or higher (82%)

PROCEDURE

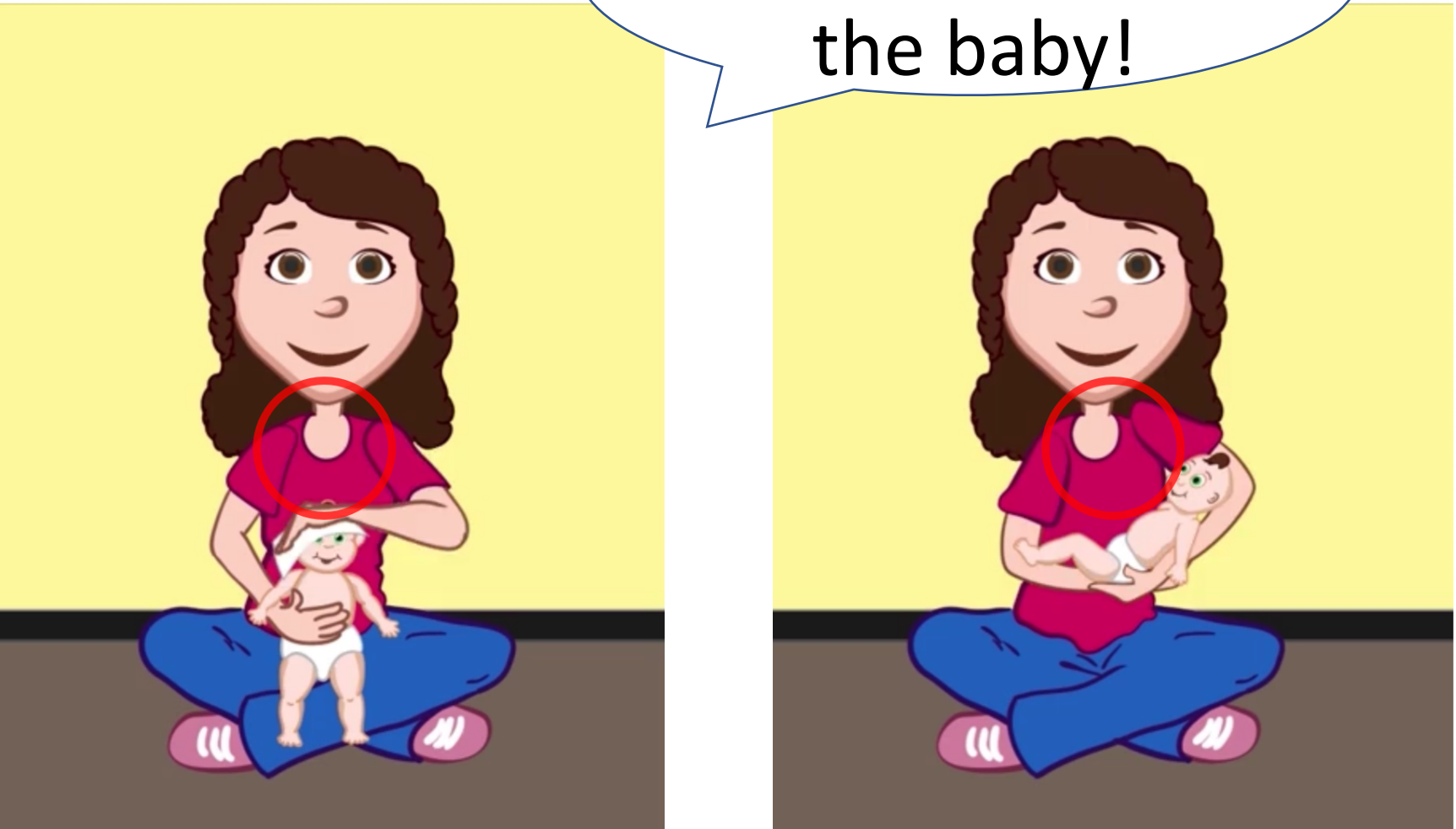
- Children completed the language screener (4 blocks; 92 items) on a touchscreen tablet
- Parents completed the MCDI II short form

Vocabulary	Syntax	Process
Nouns Verbs Adjectives Prepositions	Wh-questions Negation Reversible Transitives Reversible Prepositions	Noun Learning Verb Learning Adjective Learning

PROCEDURE CONT.

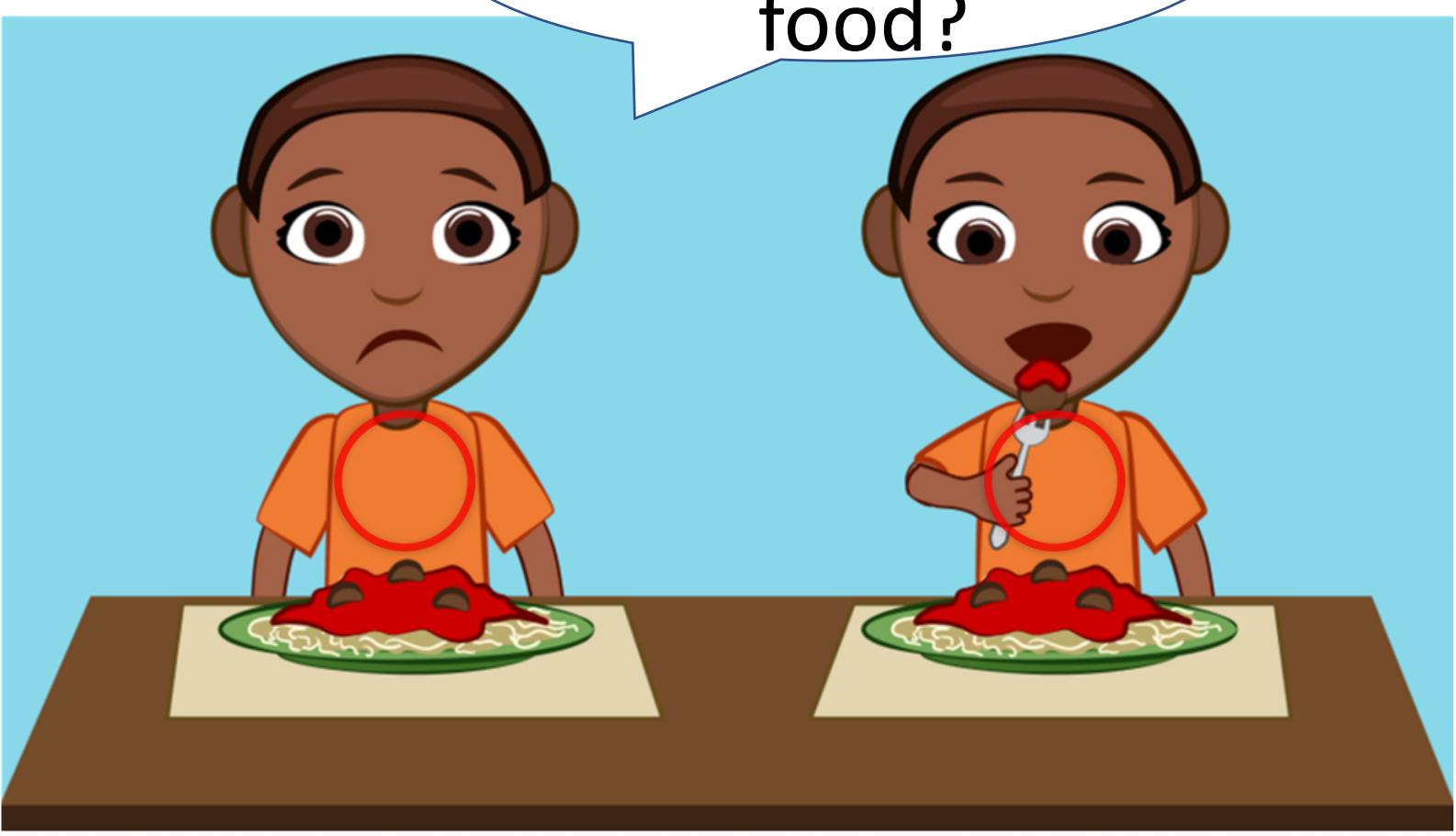
Vocabulary

Find, she is *washing* the baby!

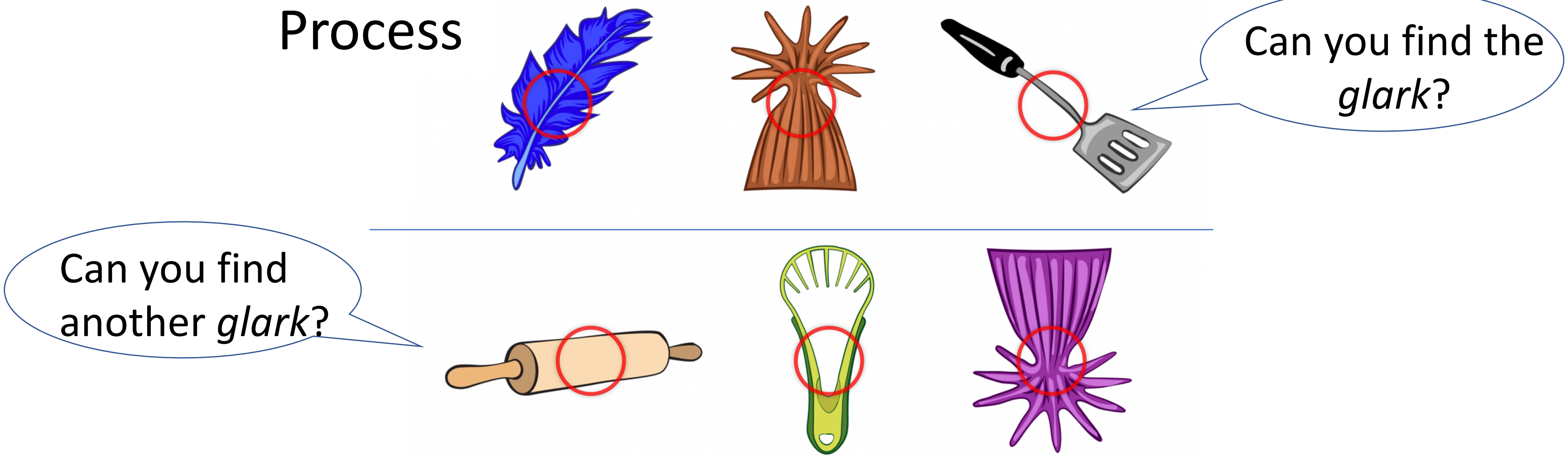


Syntax

Who is *not* eating the food?

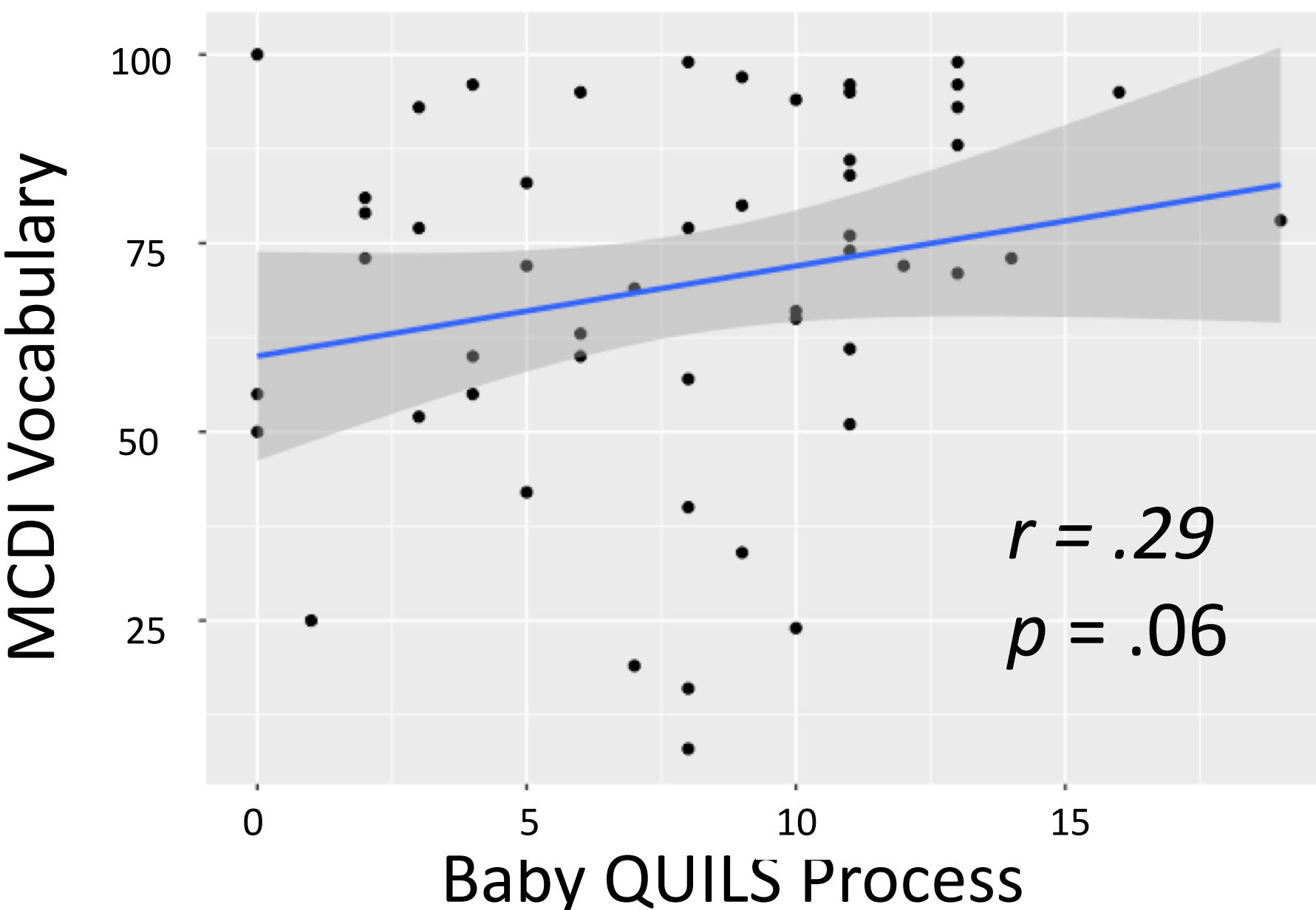
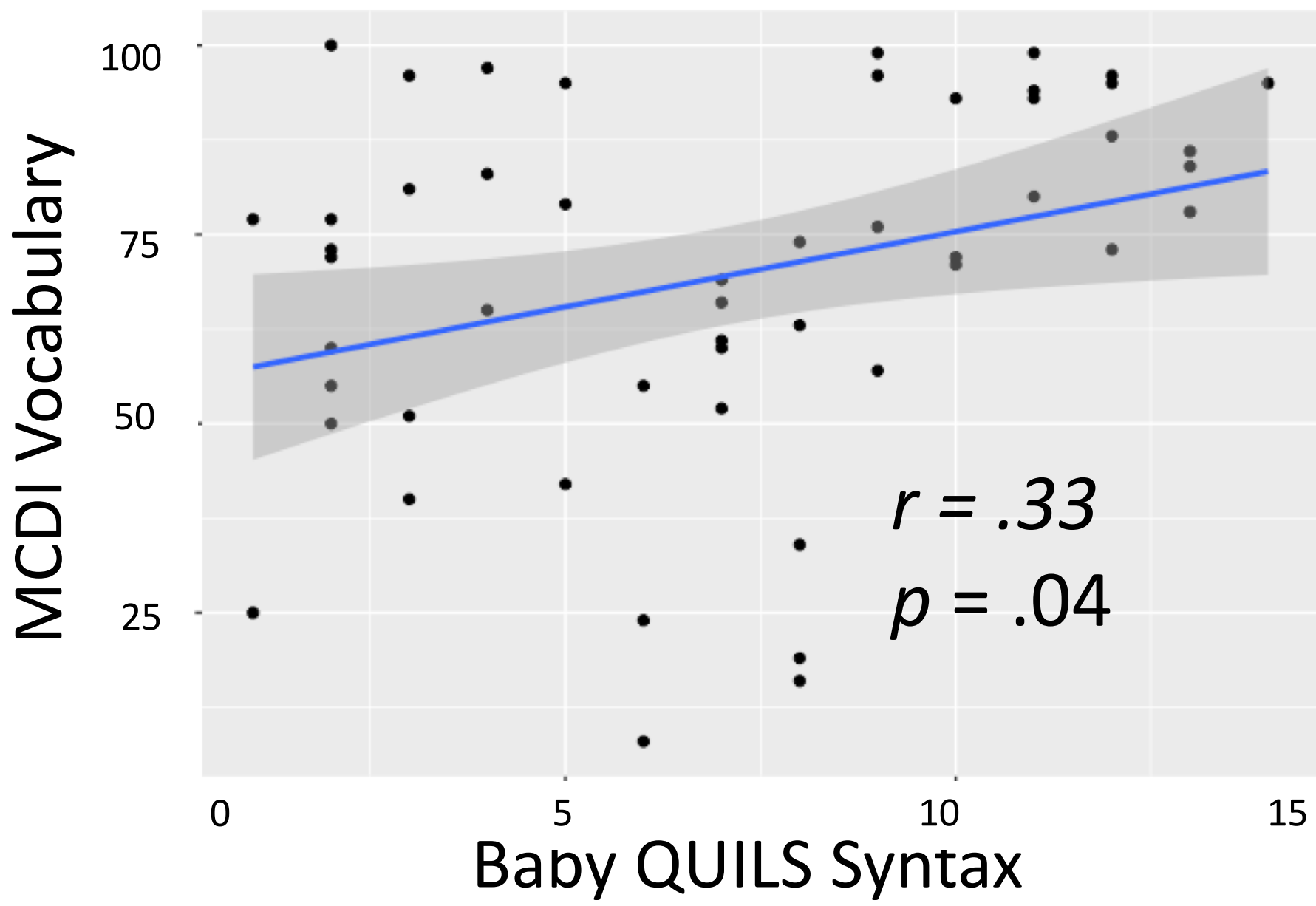
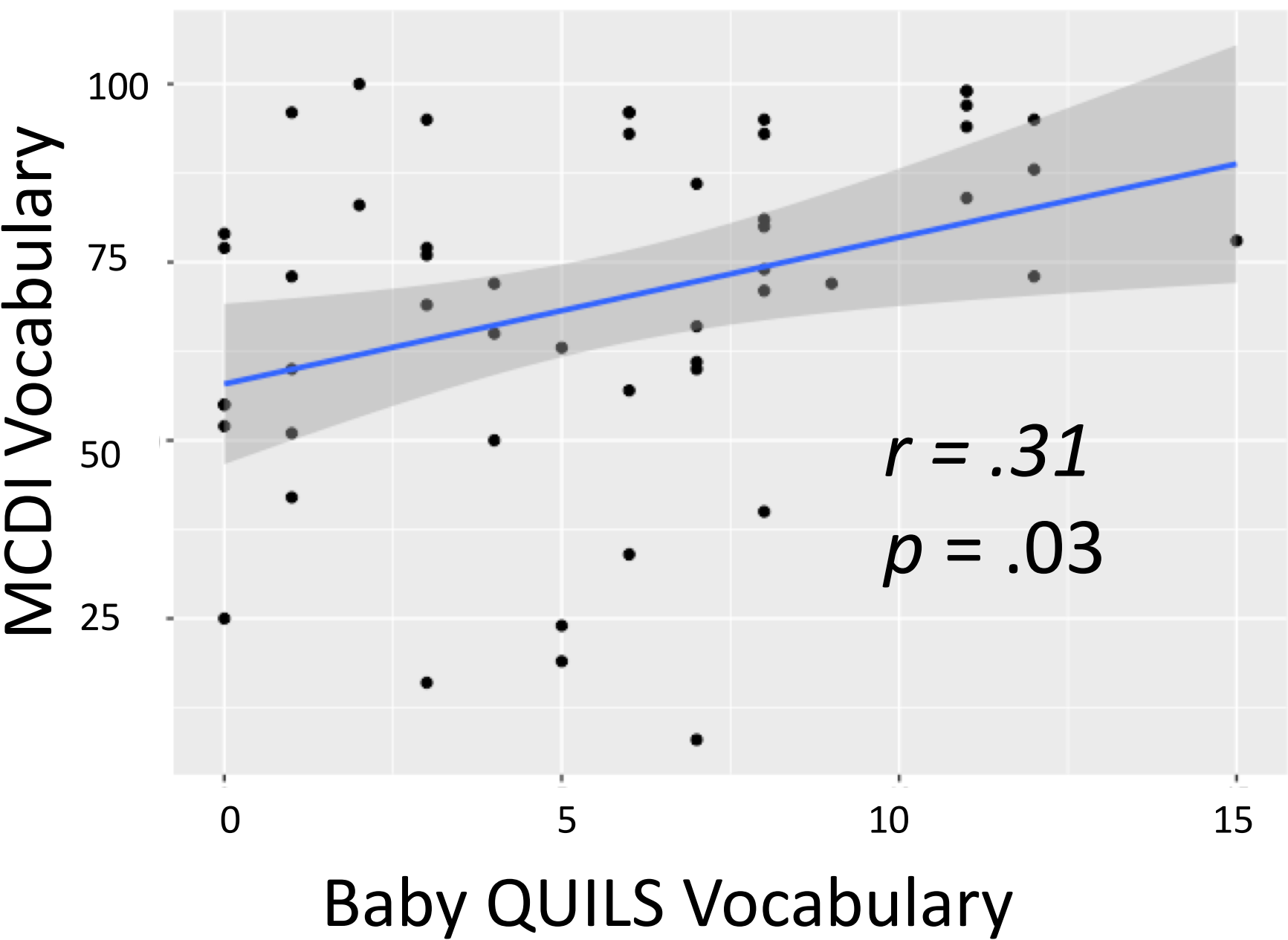


Process

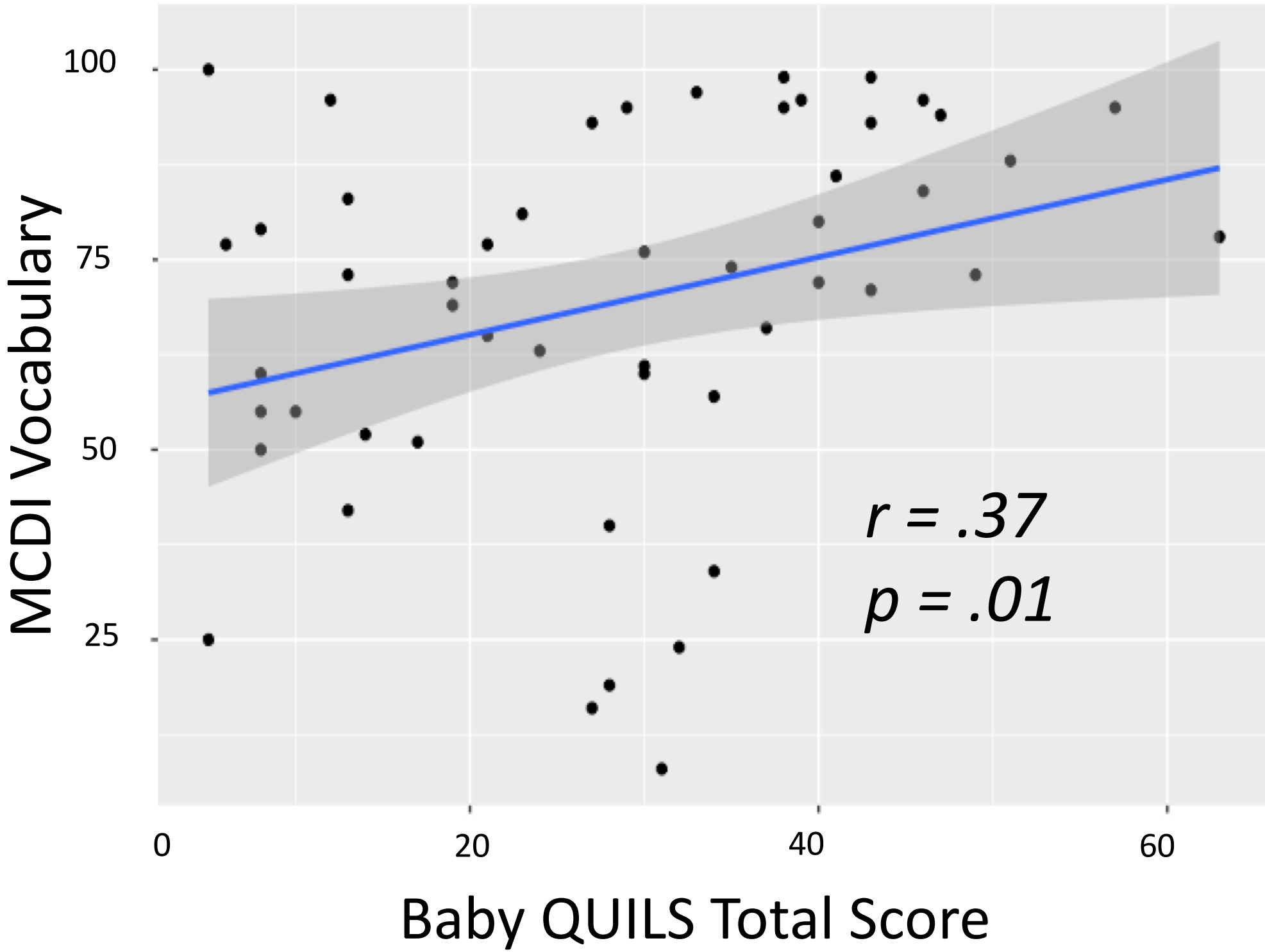


RESULTS

- Multiple imputations used to account for missing data⁵
- Pearson correlations conducted using raw scores on the MCDI and Baby QUILS



RESULTS CONT.



DISCUSSION

- Two-year-olds will cooperate and can be tested via a touchscreen app to gain a representative sample of their language skill
- Total score, vocabulary, and syntax on the Baby QUILS are significantly correlated with MCDI scores suggesting convergent validity
- The weakest correlation, process, is an area of language that the MCDI may not be able to capture with parent report
- Item reduction is underway to create a quick tablet-based language screener for 2-year-olds
- Future directions include:
 - Norming the Baby QUILS with 320+ toddlers across the US
 - Test-retest reliability
 - Further validity testing using MCDI and PPVT

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