

ECE 209  
Infant Observation

On April 7th I had the chance to finally meet baby V, who is 4 ½ months old. I was told to arrive at their home at 4pm because it's usually the time that she wakes up after one of her naps during the day. As I walked in through the front door I immediately spotted her sitting in her high chair on the right side of the living room. She was being fed by her mother. As I walked in she had her eyes on the TV. Her mother looked at me and greeted me, asking me if I needed anything to drink and to take a seat wherever I'd like.

V's mouth was full of what looked like sweet potatoes. She was wearing a lavender footed onesie that was also covered in baby food around her neck. Her skin looked baby smooth and her shiny light brown hair looked as if she had just woken up. She was just as chunky as her mother had described. The living room had a dinner table against one wall and a couch on the other. The TV was placed a bit slanted where you could view it from either side of the room. Although I had walked in and said hello to V's mother and her older sister, V's gaze was either on the TV that had Spongebob Square Pants playing or the spoon that her mother was feeding her with.

I began my observation at 4:30pm as V continued being fed. The living room had very dim lighting. At the table on one end sat V's older sister who stayed home from school that day because she wasn't feeling well. V and her mother sat at the other end of the table that was closer to the TV set. V began to grunt for 5 seconds, she sucked on her left pointer finger then slammed her hand on her table when her mom put the spoon in her mouth. Her mother said, "Yum" and V began to babble. V grunted once more as she looked at her mom and opened her hands, kicked her feet, then grunted once again. Her mom gave her another tiny spoonful. V then looked at the TV and brought her right hand up to her face and began to suck on her 3 fingers. She stretched

her left arm and grunted. V stretched both arms outward and then brought her hands close to her face. She rubbed her eyes with both hands. All the while she still had her eyes set on the TV screen. V turned her head to the left and looked at her mother then grunted. Her mother laughs and V turned her head back to look at the TV screen.

V opened her mouth and put her right hand in her left hand then put her left hand in her mouth. She grunted loudly and her mother put another spoonful in her mouth. She grunted, opened her mouth and was fed another spoonful. She grunted loudly once more and her mother said, "It's like she's mad or something". V opened her mouth then closed it sucking on her bottom lip. She stretched and her mother quickly grabbed a cloth and wiped her neck and hands. V kicked both feet outward and opened her hands and looked down at them. She opened her mouth and opened and closed her hand. She began to kick more when music from a commercial came on. Her mother got up from the chair and left the living room. She came back within seconds with a diaper and wipes in hand.

Mom stood to the right of V and picked her up, along with a blanket. Mom laid the blanket on the couch right next to me and sat down. She laid V down and began to change her diaper. V picked both her arms up and gazed at her hands making them into fists. V put her right hand in her left hand then places both in her mouth. Mom was done changing her diaper and picked her up to place her in a bouncy chair that was in the middle of the room facing the TV. Her mom placed the blanket on her legs. V looked at me then covered her face by grabbing the blanket with both hands and lifting it up. She looked to her left then looked at me. She grabbed the blanket with her hand and put it up to her mouth. She continued to put the blanket in her mouth and pull it out.

V began to babble and put her left hand in her mouth while she babbled. V looked at me, babbled louder and put her left hand in her mouth. She rubbed her eyes with both hands and yawned. Mom walked over to her and gave her a Nuby ring. V babbled again and rubbed her eye with her left hand. She yawned once more and grunted while looking at me. V lifted up her blanket with both hands and began to move her legs making the bouncy chair move. She grunted louder and mom walked over, picked her up placing the blanket down on the couch again. Mom laid V on her tummy and placed the Nuby ring in front of her.

V placed the toy in her mouth using both hands, looked up and smiled. She put the toy down and looked to her left. She put her head down then picked her head up and looks at the TV. V put the toy in her mouth then pulled it out. She began to move her legs and her mom who was sitting right by her, tapped her bottom and V smiled. V began to babble and looked at the TV and smiled again. V began to scratch the couch with her right hand and her mom straightened the blanket out. V put her head down with her right cheek on the blanket and lifted her bottom up moving both her legs. Mom rubbed her back and V began to scratch the couch while grunting.

Mom picked her up and sat her on the couch. V leaned forward, smiled and stared at her bouncy chair. Her mom said, "That doesn't look too comfortable". Her mom placed her hand on V's chest and V placed her hand on top and smiled. V grabbed mom's thumb with both hands, looked up at her and then looked at her mom's phone. She stared down at her blanket, leaned back and kicked both her feet outward. V squirmed to her right and began to cry. Mom asked, "What's the matter?" picked her up and placed V on her lap. Mom tried to give her the Nuby ring but she continued to cry. Mom stood up and walked over to V's sister and said, "Here, please take your sister while I go make her bottle". Mom walked out the room and the sister sat in the rocking chair and laid V in her arms. All the while V continued to cry. Her sister kept her in that

position for a few more seconds, rocking back and forth but then repositioned V. She placed V's head on her shoulder and began to pat lightly on her bottom while rocking back and forth. V then stopped crying and mom re-entered the living room with the bottle in hand. Sister now laid V back down while rocking, took the bottle from mom and began giving V her bottle. I packed up my stuff and said my good-byes. V looked at me as I waved to her.

I was struck by how clearly V communicated her needs and desired. At 4 ½ months she let her mom know she wanted more food. We watched videos in class of babies communicating, but V was grunting and using her body to let her mom know what she wanted. She got her message across!