

# Effects of Skin-to-Skin Contact on Early Mother-Infant Interaction: Preliminary Findings from a Canadian Sample of Full-Term Infants

Ann Bigelow, St. Francis Xavier University, Antigonish, Nova Scotia, Canada

**Abstract:** Infants with early mother-infant skin-to-skin contact were compared to infants with little or no mother-infant skin-to-skin contact on the development of their response to their mothers in the Still Face Task over the first three months of life. Infants with early skin-to-skin contact showed evidence of response to the Still Face Task from one week of age, whereas infants without skin-to-skin contact showed evidence of response to the Still Face Task at 2 months. At 3 months, infants with early skin-to-skin contact appeared to be taking an active role in initiating reengagement with mother by making social bids to her during the still face phase of the task. These results suggest that early skin-to-skin contact increases infants' sensitivity to mother and enhances infants' responsiveness to maternal social encounters.