

# Child and Language Development

Introduction to EDI 111

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# Child and Language Development

```

    graph TD
      A[Child and Language Development] --> B[How do children develop?]
      A --> C[What is language?]
      A --> D[How do children acquire language?]
      E[This presentation addresses the question: How do children develop?] --> B
  
```

2 Click to continue

# Child Development

What is "child development"?

Development = changes in a person's long term growth, feelings and patterns of thinking

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# Child Development

Development occurs in 3 "domains":

Physical      Cognitive      Psychosocial

Click to learn more

4

# Child Development

Development occurs in 3 "domains":

Physical      Cognitive      Psychosocial

Physical Development – includes body changes, motor skills and the effects of aging

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# Child Development

Development occurs in 3 "domains":


Physical      Cognitive      Psychosocial

Cognitive Development – refers to methods and style of thinking, language skills and use, strategies for remembering and recalling information


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## Child Development

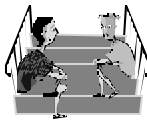
Development occurs in 3 "domains":



Physical



Cognitive




Psychosocial

Psychosocial Development – relates to changes in feelings, relationships with others and the development of a “sense of self”


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## Child Development

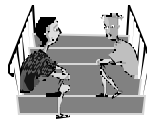
Development occurs in 3 "domains":



Physical



Cognitive




Psychosocial


Look for all 3 areas in the articles you read for Activity 1.4

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## Child Development




An important part of child development is the development and wiring of the brain – which starts before the baby is born



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## Child Development



An important part of child development is the development and wiring of the brain – which starts before the baby is born

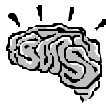
Look at these websites for your first introduction to how the brain develops:

<http://www.fcs.uga.edu/pubs/PDE/EACS03.1.pdf>

<http://www.mesaunitway.org/readytolearn.html>

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## Child Development



Notice the following key points:

- A baby's brain is “wired” by what happens early in life
- Unused connections may deteriorate
- Early language exposure is critical in language development

Now read the articles in Activity 1.4 for an in depth view of early childhood development and the “wiring of the brain”.

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**What is Language?**

An overview of language and linguistics terminology

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**What is Language?**

Before you can understand language development, you need to understand some basic things about language itself.

Here are the answers to some critical questions from the website: [http://www.kidsource.com/ASHA/child\\_language.html](http://www.kidsource.com/ASHA/child_language.html)

What is language?

What is speech?

Click to learn more

How do children learn language?

2

**What is Language? Definition**

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What is language?

What is speech?

How do children learn language?

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Language is a code that we learn to use in order to communicate ideas and express our wants and needs. Reading, writing, speaking, and some gesture systems are all forms of language.

**What is Speech?**

Before you can understand language development, you need to understand some basic things about language itself.

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What is language?

What is speech?

How do children learn language?

4

Speech is the spoken form of language.

**How do children learn language?**

Before you can understand language development, you need to understand some basic things about language itself.

Here are the answers to some critical questions from the website: [http://www.kidsource.com/ASHA/child\\_language.html](http://www.kidsource.com/ASHA/child_language.html)

What is language?

What is speech?

How do children learn language?

5

Children learn language and speech by listening to the language around them and practicing what they hear. In this way, they figure out the rules of the language code. It is not learned all at once but in stages over time.

**13 design features of language**

Chapter 1 in your textbook, *Born to Talk*, discusses the 13 design features of language by Charles Hockett.

These features define the characteristics of human speech, but most of the features really are characteristic of human "language", not just speech.

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## A definition of language

Let's go back and look at the definition of language:

Language is a code that we learn to use in order to communicate ideas and express our wants and needs. Reading, writing, speaking, and some gesture systems are all forms of language.

This is a simple definition of language from the *American Speech Language Hearing Association* website.

You will learn a more complete definition of language in EDI 121

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## A definition of language

Let's go back and look at the definition of language:

Language is a code that we learn to use in order to communicate ideas and express our wants and needs. Reading, writing, speaking, and some gesture systems are all forms of language.

Notice that the ultimate goal of language is to communicate ideas and express our wants and needs. Language is therefore important in a social context.

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## The "code" of language

However, let's focus on the word "code" in the definition

Language is a code that we learn to use in order to communicate ideas and express our wants and needs. Reading, writing, speaking, and some gesture systems are all forms of language.

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## The building blocks of language

The language "code" has building blocks which go from the smallest unit of the language to the way that the units are combined to create meaning.

These are the building blocks of language....

- Conversations/stories
- Phrases or Sentences
- Words
- Sounds

Click to learn more

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## The building blocks of language

Every language follows certain rules. And there are rules that dictate the flow of communication in these situations. For example, turn-taking.

Holding a conversation, telling a story, using different forms of language for different purposes, listeners, uses

Combining words (or signs) together (grammar) to attach meaning to the words

Creating words or signs from smaller units like sounds, letters or body language

- Conversations/stories
- Phrases or Sentences
- Words
- Sounds

Click to learn more

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## The building blocks of language

Think about a baby learning to talk..the baby might follow this exact pattern as she learns language.

And can finally have a conversation or tell a story

She begins to put words together

Then she develops a few simple words

A baby starts by babbling and making sounds

- Conversations/stories
- Phrases or Sentences
- Words
- Sounds

Click to learn more

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## The building blocks of language

In Lesson 4, you will examine the stages of language development and observe an infant and toddler. Notice where the children are in this hierarchy of language development!

Click to learn more

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## Key Points

Key Points to remember:

- Language is a “code” that has building blocks and follows rules
- As you study children and how they develop language, you need to be aware of the codes and rules of the language to understand the child's development

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## What is Linguistics?

Remember, that language is built from the following “building blocks”

Linguistics, the study of language, has terms for each of these “building blocks”.

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## Linguistics Terminology

of language. Click to see the definitions of these elements of language.

- Pragmatics** – the system of rules that defines how language is used to accomplish social ends (turn-taking, for example)
- Discourse** – a conversation, or story - using the language for different purposes
- Grammar/syntax** – the rules for combining words to create meaning
- Morpheme** – the smallest meaningful unit in a language (words or parts of words)
- Phoneme** – the smallest part of a language, the basic building block of the language

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## Linguistics Terminology

These additional terms describe the study of the parts of a language.

- Morphology** – the study of the smallest meaningful units in a language and the way they are put together
- Phonology** – the study of the smallest parts of a language, the basic building block of the language

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## Linguistics Terminology

Why is learning this terminology important?

- Linguistics terms are used in many of your textbooks and readings, so understanding the terms is essential for your learning.
- Using the correct terminology will help you communicate effectively as a professional.
- This website contains basic “linguistic” definitions. <http://www.geocities.com/CollegePark/3920/>

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## Summary

This presentation has answered the question:

*What is language?*

You should now be able to :

- define language
- define speech
- define linguistics
- define the following linguistic terms:  
    phoneme, morpheme, syntax, discourse, pragmatics

# How is Language Acquired?

An introduction to theories of language acquisition

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# How is language acquired?


Harvey Daniels in "Nine Ideas About Language" says:

"Children learn their native language swiftly, efficiently, and largely without instruction"

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# Nature or Nurture?

There are numerous theories about language acquisition, and they include 2 main schools of thought:



Nature

These theorists propose that we are pre-wired for language learning. It is part of our human "nature".




Nurture

These theorists propose that language is an entirely learned behavior.

3 [Click to learn more](#)


# Nature or Nurture?

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Nurture

These theorists propose that language is an entirely learned behavior.

What do you think?

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# Language Acquisition Theories



Nature

Innate Nativist

vs.




Nurture

Learned Empiricist

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# Nativist Theory



Nature

The nativist approach, also a linguistic approach was fostered by Chomsky.

He proposed a Language Acquisition Device (LAD) that is "an innate language reservoir filled with information about the rules of language structure". It is a specific part of the brain, designed to process language.

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## Behaviorist Theory

**Behaviorism** was a “nurture” approach

A “behaviorist” approach to language acquisition would say that children are “conditioned” to learn language by a stimulus-response pattern.

For example, when they are babbling and happen to say a word, then they are rewarded.

Read about “behaviorism” at this website:  
<http://www.funderstanding.com/behaviorism.cfm>



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## Interactionist Theories



A compromise between “nature” and “nurture” is the “Interactionist” approach which recognizes that many factors influence language development

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## Interactionist Theories



There are 3 well known theories in this category:

- developmental cognitive theory (Jean Piaget)
- information processing model
- social interaction (Lev Vgotsky)

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## Theories - Piaget

Developmental Cognitive Theory (Jean Piaget)

**Piaget** was a Swiss psychologist who dedicated his life to the “biological explanation of knowledge”.

Piaget described 4 major developmental stages in children that describe how a child learns. He viewed language acquisition as a just another example of general learning.

View this website to learn more about Piaget:  
<http://www.pbs.org/webh/aso/databank/entries/dh23pi.html>

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## Theories - IPA

Information Processing Theory

**IPA** Sometimes referred to as IPA for Information Processing Approach, this theory describes language acquisition in the context of how the brain processes information and draws comparisons between the brain and a computer.

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## Theories - Vgotsky

Social Interaction

**Vgotsky** proposed that “Social interaction plays an important role in the learning process”

His “Zone of Proximal Development” describes the difference between what a child will do on his/her own or with guidance

View this website to learn more about Vgotsky:  
<http://www.funderstanding.com/vgotsky.cfm>

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