

Psy 353 Learning in the Young Child

Dr. Schwartz

Unit Objectives

Language Development

Students should be able to:

1. Briefly describe, in very general terms, language's role in communication and cognition.
2. Describe what is known about infant-directed (and child-directed) speech. In your description, define the term "prosody".
3. Describe the role of prosody in infant-directed (and child-directed) speech during the development of language.
4. Define, and provide an example of, each of the 5 components of language.
5. Define, and provide an example of the following terms:
 - a. language acquisition support system
 - b. overextensions
 - c. overregularization
6. Describe the development of language during the first 2 years of life.
7. Describe the development of language from 2-5 years old.
8. Describe the communicative competence of preschoolers.
9. List the evidence in support of the existence of a critical period for language.
10. Briefly explain why language is learned easier in life than later, using the theories below:
 - a. Elissa Newport's less-is-more hypothesis

b. John Locke's neurolinguistic theory

11. Briefly explain Alexander Luria's ideas about the self-regulatory function of language.
12. Briefly explain Lev Vygotsky's ideas about the interrelationship between thought and language.