

Psy 353 Learning and the Young Child

Schwartz

Activity in Language Development

Instructions:

For this activity, you will need three children. One should be close to 18 months old; another should be approximately 36 months old; and, the third should be close to 5 or 6 years old. You are to observe each of the three children long enough to get 20 samples of their language behavior.

Once you have obtained the “data” on your three children, you are to analyze your samples for developmental progression. Your analysis should contain a chart of the types of language elements you heard, and an interpretive discussion of the differences.

Pay attention to elements like: semantics, syntax, morphology, pragmatics, overextensions, prosody, MLU’s, overregularization, negatives and questions, active and passive voice, egocentric speech, etc. Make certain to read in Bjorklund *before* you do your observation.

Finally, make certain your report is well structured, double-space type-written and contains, as an appendix, your actual data. And, most of all, *have fun!* You should find it a fascinating experience.

Child # 1: Age = _____ ; Gender = _____ First Name = _____

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.

Child # 2: Age = _____ ; Gender = _____ First Name = _____

- 1.
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- 16.
- 17.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.

Child # 3: Age = _____ ; Gender = _____ First Name = _____

- 1.
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- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.