Child Development
Chapter 9

Mercer County Community College

Language Defined

Any rule-based system for expressing ideas.

Elements of Language

❀ Phonology – *The sounds a of language*

❀ Semantics – *Meaning of words*

❀ Grammar – *Structure of language*

❀ Pragmatics – *How we use language*

Perceiving Speech

- Phonemes are unique speech that can be used to create words.

- Infants can distinguish different vowels and consonants, evidenced by the *habituation phenomenon.*

- Infant-directed speech (*motherese*).

Learning The Meaning of Words

- Understanding Words as Symbols
- Fast Mapping Meanings to Words
  - Naming explosion
  - Fast mapping
  - Under/Overextension
- Individual Differences in Word Learning
  - Phonological memory
  - Referential / Expressive Style
- Encouraging Word Learning
- Beyond Words: Other Symbols

Language and Communication

- Speaking in Sentences
  - From two-word speech to complex sentences
  - How do children acquire grammar?

- Using language to communicate
  - Taking turns
  - Speaking effectively
  - Listening well