Language
- Special form of communication in which we learn complex rules to manipulate symbols that can be used to generate an endless number of meaningful sentences.
- Communication
- Set of Symbols
- Complex Rules
- Endless Number of Meaningful Sentences

Communication
- Ability to use sounds, smells, or gestures to exchange information.

Prelinguistic Stage
- Birth to 1 year
- Crying
- Cooing
- Babbling
- Language Comprehension
Infant-Directed Speech

- Prosodic features
- Simplicity features
- Redundancy features
- Lexical features
- Content features

Linguistic Stage

- 1 year and up
- Holophrases
  - Infant-directed Speech
  - Overextension
  - Underextension
- Vocabulary Development
  - Parental Style
  - Parental Responsivity

Vocabulary Development

![Graph showing vocabulary development over age]
Linguistic Stage

- Two-word combinations
- Telegraphic Speech
  - errors of overgeneralization
  - negation

Errors of Overgeneralization

Verbal Styles

- Referential speech
- Expressive speech
Language Development

24 Months
- Can name a number of objects common to his surroundings
- Approximately 2/3 of what child says should be intelligible
- Vocabulary of approximately 150-300 words
- My and mine are beginning to emerge

26 Months
- Knows chief parts of body and should be able to indicate these if not name
- Handles three word sentences easily
- Has in the neighborhood of 900-1000 words
- About 90% of what child says should be intelligible

The Impact of Early Environments on Children’s Developmental Competence

Effects of Mothers’ Speech on Infant Vocabulary
Principles of Language Interaction

- Interact with child
  - Contingency
  - Interactive synchrony
- Relate personally to child
  - Positive reinforcement
  - Avoid correcting errors
- Use meaningful cognitive strategy
  - Encourage exploration
  - Questioning
  - Use examples to help generalize meanings of words

Principles of Language Interaction

- Keep language stimulation focused
  - Emphasize key words
  - Cater to child’s interests/attention
  - Repetition
  - Use labels consistently
- Engage child through play
  - Label things during play and caregiving