Language Development.

- Milestones, theories, and controversies
Milestones of Language Acquisition

- Non Verbal communication
- The Prelinguistic Period
Prelinguistic communication

- Facilitates language development and social and emotional development
Key developments in language

- Crying
- Cooing
- Babbling
- Single words - Holophrase
- Two-or more word utterances – telegraphic speech
- Receptive versus expressive language development
Early Language

- Language spurt at 18 months to 2 years
- Over extensions:
- Under extensions
- over-regularizations --- “I runned” “I goed”
Children and language learning

- Spacing is learned over time..
- [http://whyfiles.org/058language/baby_talk.html](http://whyfiles.org/058language/baby_talk.html)
- Ambiguities in language- word order varies by culture
I once shot an elephant in my pajamas

What does it mean?
This ?
THIS IS A WUG.

NOW THERE IS ANOTHER ONE.
THERE ARE TWO OF THEM.
THERE ARE TWO ____.
There are various views to explain how children learn language.

How much do biological factors influence language development?

Is language “learned” or does it maturationaly unfold, like say walking?
Behavioral Views

- Babble-luck – language is learned much in the way any other skill is learned.
- Shaping, reinforcement, punishment, etec.
Social-Cognitive Theories

- Bandura
- Child directed speech
- Role for imitation, modeling, cognition
- Incorrect grammar is not punished
- Meaning is reinforced.
Biologically Oriented Theories

- Chomsky- LANGUAGE ACQUISITION DEVICE
- Nativism – Lennenberg-
- A critical period for language?
- Evidence- Biological sequence of Milestones is universal
- Areas of the brain seem specific to various language functions (e.g. Wernicke’s and Broca’s area)
The Brain and Language

- Frontal Lobe - Broca’s area – planning/executing language – “expressive”
- Junction of temporal/parietal Wernicke’s area – “receptive”
Theories of Language Acquisition

- Piaget vs. Vygotsky
- Disagree on relationship between thought and language
- Disagree on the function of "egocentric" speech
VYGOTSKY’S VIEW OF LANGUAGE AND THOUGHT
Interactionist Perspective

Biologically based capacities and the language environment interact as the child acquires language.

Language milestones occur in concert with cognitive and socio-emotional achievements.