First Language Acquisition

It is the process by which humans acquire the capacity to perceive and comprehend language, as well as to produce and use words and sentences to communicate.

Language acquisition usually refers to **first-language acquisition**, which studies infants' acquisition of their native language.

Basic Requirements

-Interaction with other language users ,

- The child must be physically capable of sending and receiving sound signals in a language .

- The child must be able to hear .

The acquisition schedule

All normal children develop language at the same time . Language acquisition schedule has the same basis as the motor skills.

Caregiver speech

A characteristically simplified speech style adopted by someone who spends a lot of time interacting with a young child.

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Features

-Frequent use of questions , exaggerated intonation , extra loudness , slower tempo with longer pauses ,
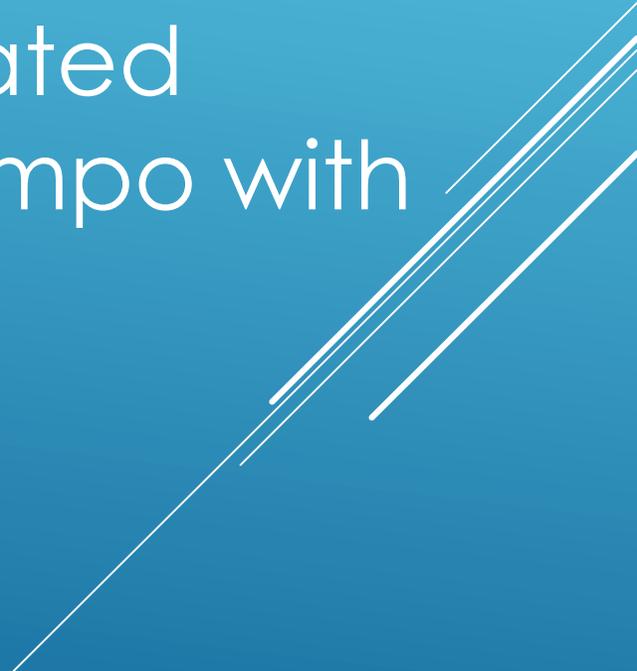
- A lot of forms associated with " baby talk " like ' nana ' , or repeated simple sound and syllables , as ' choo-choo, wawa , pee-pee .
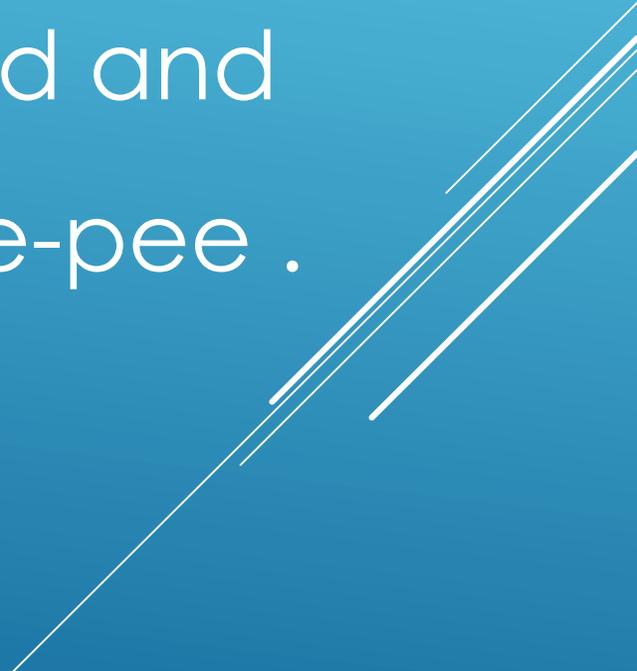
- Simple sentence structure and a lot of repetition.

Cooing

By four months , the developing ability to bring the back of the tongue into regular contact with the back of the palate allows the infant to create sound similar to the velar consonant [k] and [g].

Babbling

By six and eight months , the infant begins to produce different vowels and consonants as well as combinations of sounds.

The late babbling stage is characterized by:

- more complex syllable combinations (ma-da-ga-ba),

- a lot of sound play ,

- imitations .
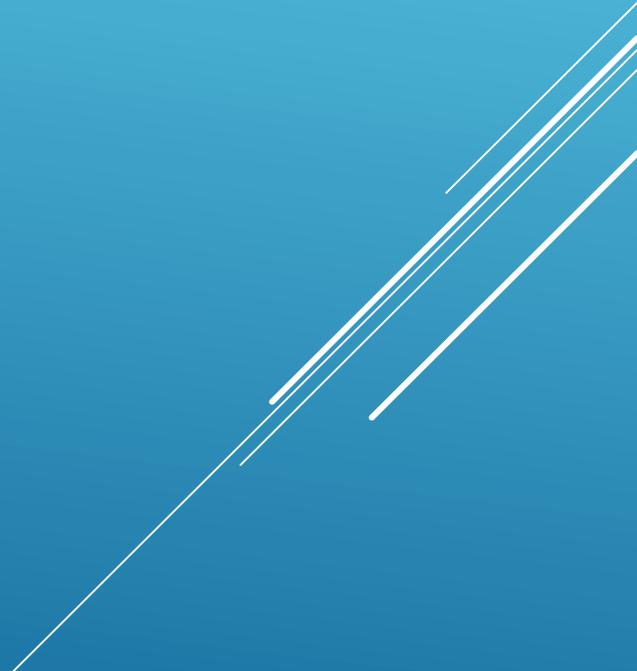
The one word stage

Between twelve and eighteen months , children begin to produce a variety of recognizable single-unit utterances.

The two-word stage

Around eighteen to twenty , a variety of combinations , similar to " baby chair " , " cat bed " will usually have appeared.

The adult interpretation of such combinations is very much tied to the context of their occurrence .

Telegraphic speech

Between two and two-and-a-half years old, the child begins producing a large number of utterances that could be classified as " multiple-word " speech , like :

This shoe all wet