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