

## MORPHOLOGICAL/SYNTACTIC ACQUISITION

### AGE

- 1-1 to 1-6      50% all utterances are nouns  
MLR 1.2 words
- 1-7 to 2-0      Follows directions using 1 or 2 spatial concepts: in/on  
Negation “No” (no bed)  
Possessive emerging (daddy car)  
Refers to self with pronoun + name (me Tommy)  
33% utterances are nouns  
Combines two words into phrases in noun + verb, or noun + adj. form  
MLR 1.8 words
- 2-1 to 2-6      Articles “a” and “the” appear in sentence  
Present progressive –ing on verbs  
Regular plural forms emerging: cat    cats  
Uses some contractions in memorized form (don’t, can’t, it’s, that’s)  
25% utterances are nouns, 25% are verbs  
Combines 3-4 words in sub + verb + object  
MLR 3.1 words
- 2-7 to 3-0      Auxiliary “is” + adj. used (ball is red)  
Auxiliary “is”/”am” + -ing used (boy is running)  
Regular past tense verbs appear (walk    walked)  
Uses ‘s for possession (daddy’s car)  
Uses pronouns: I, me, your, mine (he, she, and it are emerging)  
Negative “not” emerging  
Uses contracted form of “is” (he’s running)  
Adverb of location emerging (here, there)  
Begins to use do, can, and will (emerging future tense)  
Uses imperatives (commands: go, get it, don’t, etc.)  
20 % utterances are nouns, 25% are verbs  
MLR 3.4 words  
Infinitive complement (I want to play) emerging  
Beginning to use “is” at beginning of questions  
Third person singular present tense emerging (he runs)  
Contracted forms of modals (won’t, can’t)  
Irregular plural forms emerging (child    children)  
Uses “are” with plural nouns (boys are running)  
Uses “and” as conjunction  
Regular plural forms are consistent  
Uses “is, are, am” in sentences



- 3-1 to 3-6 MLR 4.3 words  
Combines 4 to 5 words in sentences  
Uses compound sentence “and”
- 3-7 to 4-0 Possessive marker ‘s consistent  
Regular third person singular –s consistent  
Simple past tense (t, d) consistent (walked)  
Present progressive “is” + ing consistent  
Contractions used consistently  
Uses negative “not” consistently  
Pronouns “he, she, I, you, me, mine” consistent  
“Are, they, their” used inconsistently  
Reflexive pronoun “myself” emerging  
More adverbs of time and manner are being used  
Conjunction “because” emerging  
Uses “got” (I got it)  
“What was, what were” questions emerging  
“Was/were” (yes/no) questions emerging (Was he there?)  
MLR 4.4 words  
Combines 4-5 words in sentences  
Complex sentences used frequently  
Imperatives and emphatics used consistently  
Parts of speech now in stable relationship
- 4-1 to 5-0 “If” and “so” appear in sentences  
Irregular plurals used fairly consistently (child children)  
“Our, they, their” used consistently  
Uses “could” and “would” in sentences  
Errors of noun/verb and adj/noun agreement are frequent  
MLR 4.6 words  
Combines 4 to 7 words in sentences  
Passive voice emerging in some children. (The dog was kicked by the boy.)
- 4-7 to 5-0 Possessive pronouns “his, her” emerging  
Uses “will” to form future tense  
Fewer errors in agreement between adj/noun  
Reflexive pronouns becoming more consistent  
Comparative –er emerging (bigger)  
MLR 5.7 words  
Combines 5 to 8 words in sentences  
Passive voice emerging in some children. (The dog was kicked by the boy.)

- 5-1 to 6-0      All pronouns used consistently  
 Superlative –est used (biggest)  
 Adverbial word endings emerging (slowly, faster, etc.)  
 MLR 6.6 words  
 Syntax near normal
- 6-1 to 7-0      Fairly consistent use of most morphological markers  
 “If” and “so” developed by most children  
 Reflexive pronouns developed by most children  
 Irregular comparatives used more correctly (good, better, best)  
 Perfect tense “have” and “had” emerging  
 Nominalizations occurring: noun forms are developed from verb forms  
 Continued improvement on irregular plurals  
 Iteration emerging “You have to clean clothes to make them clean.”  
 Participial compliments emerging  
 MLR 7.3 words  
 Passive voice fully developed in most children  
 Continued refinement of syntax

Speech and Language Development Chart

Word Making Productions 1980  
 Salt Lake City, UT