

English Language

New Student Day Activity

Before you begin your courses at the Sixth Form, Bolton, you are required to complete the following tasks to spark your curiosity about English Language. Child Language Acquisition is one of the major topics in this subject and focuses on children's language development – from the early stages of language – to Primary School level.

Did you know?

All babies are born with the ability to learn language. All children - no matter which language their parents speak - learn a language in the same way.

Task 1: Look at the video below – under the Extension Task - of the mother teaching her little girl how to speak. Does the little girl accurately repeat her mother's words? Why do you think there are inconsistencies in her speech?

Extension Task: Parents/caregivers use a method called 'Baby Talk' – known as 'Parentese'/'Motherese' or Caregiver's Speech. Have you noticed how the mother speaks differently to a child, when compared to another adult or older child?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eat6aBfo2mA>

Knowledge required: The role of the parent being instrumental to the child's language development. This can be found in the link in the Task, entitled 'Curious Kids.'

Task 2: Write down three reasons why parents are so important to a child's language development (this information can be found in the article).

<https://theconversation.com/curious-kids-how-do-babies-learn-to-talk-111613>

Extension Task: Is language development a result of nurture or nature – or a combination of the two? Give reasons for both sides of the argument.

Investigation – Create a PowerPoint, consisting of three slides, about how a child learns language. Use the Internet to help you. In your PowerPoint, consider the following ideas:

- 1.) Do all children require input from their parents in order to learn language?
- 2.) What is the average age for a child to start talking?
- 3.) Define the following stages: holophrastic stage; telegraphic stage.
- 4.) What did Noam Chomsky and B.F. Skinner suggest about how children learn language?

Extension Task:

Some research suggests that boys tend to learn language slightly later than girls. Using the Internet to help you, write down the reasons why this may be.