

# ASD AND LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT

1. Do ASD and TD children acquire language in the same ways?
2. Does ASD affect bilingual development?



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# POP QUIZ

- 1. ASD is a developmental disorder characterized by social or communicative impairments.**
- 2. Children with ASD can develop in either verbal or nonverbal communication.**
- 3. Linguistic deficits of ASD can hinder diagnosed children from acquiring multiple languages.**

(Lund, et al., 2017, p. 106)

(Parisse, 1999, p. 254)

(Fahim & Nedwick, 2014; Kay-Raining Bird, et al., 2012; Lund, et al., 2017)



**ASD ~ “developmental disorder that occurs with varying degrees of severity...universally characterized by deficits or impairments of social and communicative ability”**  
**(Lund, et al., 2017, p. 106)**

Table 1  
Behavioral characteristics associated with autism

Behavioral characteristics	Examples of behavior
Significant difficulties with social behavior	Children do not pay attention to people, they do not play with others, and/or they do not reciprocate. They present anomalies in eye contact.
Significant difficulties in verbal and communicative behavior	Children grab what they want, they copy or parrot words (echolalia) and when they speak, they do not converse; they do not initiate communication and present attention deficits.
Significant difficulties in the development of play.	Children use only parts of toys, they line up and stack objects and do not display imaginative play.
Highly restricted repetitive patterns of behavior	Children may talk continuously about the same thing or repeat the same questions, they may stare at objects, flap their fingers or hit themselves.
High resistance to even slight changes in routines	

(Parisse 1999)

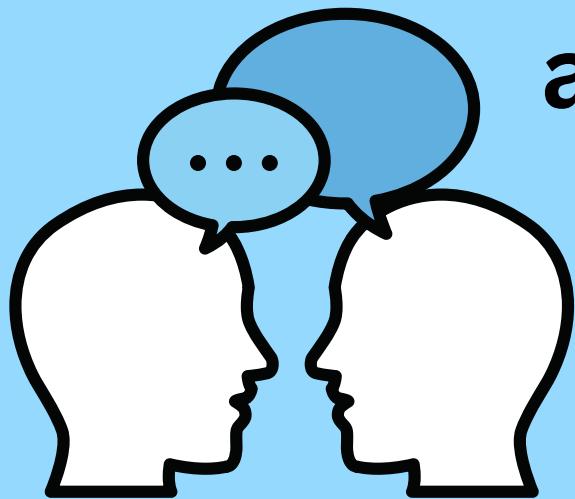


# 1. Gesture preceding production

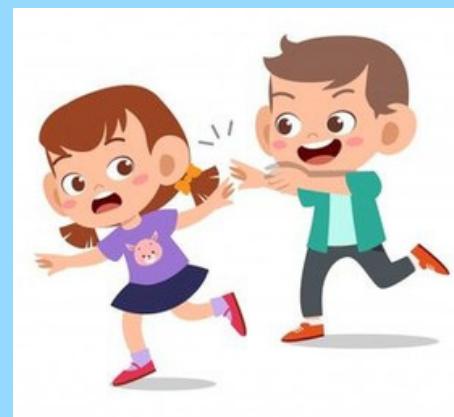
(Talbott, et al., 2020)



## 2. Comprehension Preceding Production and Noun Bias



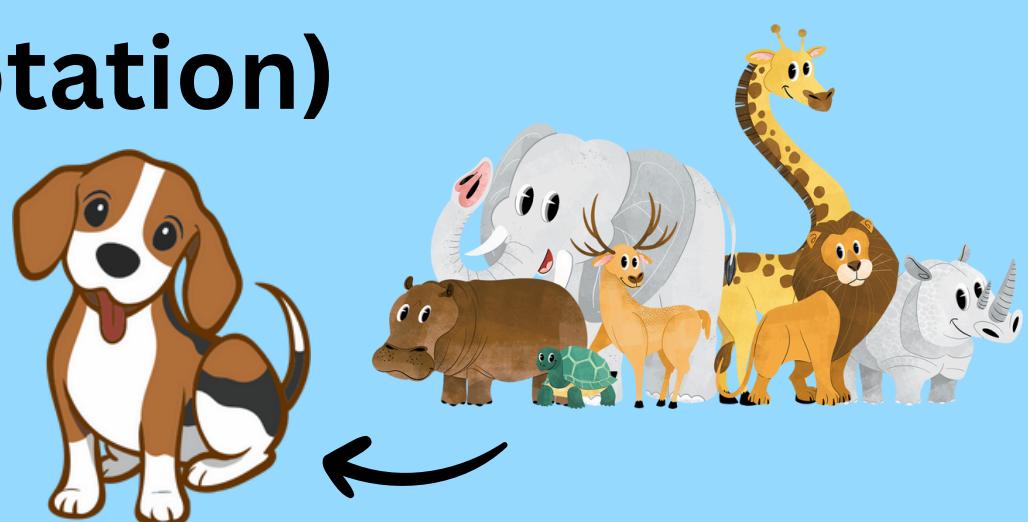
(Swensen, et al., 2007)



<https://in.pinterest.com/pin/3663339750943279747/>

## 3. Lexical (Vocabulary) and Semantic (Connotation)

(Parisse 1990)



<https://www.vectorstock.com/royalty-free-vector/mother-plays-with-kid-vector-20056203>



Although ASD children may face initial language delay and additional linguistic challenges as a result of their deviant social behaviors...

Typically Developing	Language Tools	ASD Children
Yes	Communicate with Gestures Before Complex Speech	Yes
Yes	-Understand Before Proper Production -Use Noun Bias to Understand Situations	Yes
Yes	Vocabulary and Semantics Based Off Linguistic Input	Yes

(Parisse, 1999; Swensen, et al., 2007; Talbott, et al., 2020)





**Misconception:**  
**Since most children with ASD struggle with initial language acquisition, they shouldn't learn additional languages.**

**Reality:**  
**ASD children have no cognitive disadvantage in linguistic development and can successfully acquire multiple languages, especially when provided access to adequate resources.**

Fahim & Nedwick, 2014; Kay-Raining Bird, et al., 2012; Lund, et al., 2017





# Harmful Effects of Monolingual Restriction

- **disconnects** ASD children from their multilingual environments
- **limits** higher quality social interactions
- could further **impair** linguistic abilities overall

Fahim & Nedwick, 2014; Kay-Raining Bird, et al., 2012; Lund, et al., 2017



# Conclusion:

ASD and TD Children  
use similar linguistic  
devices to develop  
language.

ASD Children can  
successfully acquire  
more than one language.

# References:

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