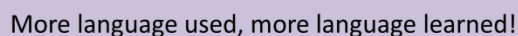


1995: Betty Hart and Todd Risley spent 2 1/2 years intensely observing the language of 42 families. Research in the following years found a high correlation between vocabulary size at age 3 and language test scores at ages 9 and 10 in vocabulary, listening, syntax, and reading comprehension. There was a 30 million word gap between the vocabularies of welfare and professional families by age three.



- To learn to read, children's brains need to be exposed to 20,000 listening hours (5+ years).
- All of this input is needed before the brain makes the connection between the sounds and their corresponding letters of the alphabet.
- Without those 20,000 hours of listening children are less ready to read at the same rate as other children their age – and they may never catch up.



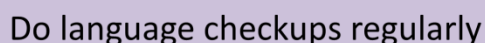
Families' Language and Use Differ Across Income Groups

	Families					
	<u>Professional</u>		<u>Working-class</u>		<u>Welfare</u>	
Measures & Scores	Parent	Child	Parent	Child	Parent	Child
Recorded vocabulary size	2,176	1,116	1,498	749	974	525
Average utterances/ hour	487	310	301	223	176	168
Average different words/ hour	382	297	251	216	167	149

ANY FAMILY CAN DO IT!

EVERYDAY YOUR CHILD NEEDS YOU TO:

- Talk about what he is interested in – giving him the words to go with his exploration of the world.
- Talk about everyday happenings, activities, questions, problem solving, planning ahead, I wonder....
- Read – young children love the same books again and again.
- Say rhymes, focus on letter sounds (big blue ball, buh, buh, buh), sing songs



Customized MacArthur Vocabulary Checklist: Level II
(Toddler Form A)*
Copyright 1993 All Rights Reserved **Child is age 19-24 months**

[illegible]

Every 6 months see how many words your child is using. Remember, he or she may not develop a gap in learning until after age 15-18 months. Forms are available for 8-36 months.

Activities you will do in the next week to help build better listening, language and early reading skills:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

SUGGESTED FOR HOME VISIT 4-5