

Who would you refer to a speech pathologist ?

1. Lisp
2. "Behaviour" problem
3. Tantruming 2-y-o
4. Stuttering
5. Husky voice
6. 5-y-o not keeping up with peers for literacy
7. Teenager truanting
8. Teenager withdrawn
9. Rude
10. Minimalist answers
11. Inappropriate answers
12. 7-y-o with good spelling but poor composition skills
13. Long-winded/verbose

Overview



- Communication, speech and language
- What children need to learn
- Why do children need robust CSL skills?
- What facilitates their acquisition of CSL skills?

Communication, speech and language

- Fundamental
- Remarkable achievement

Communication, speech and language

- Right

- Article 13 UN *Convention on the Rights of the Child*

- “The child shall **have the right to freedom of expression**; this right shall include freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds, regardless of frontiers, **either orally, in writing or in print**, in the form of art, or through any other media of the child's choice.”

Communication, speech and language

- **CSL Problems**

- 1 in 5 children ($\approx 20\%$)

- International (Prathanee et al. 2009)

- Australian data

- WA (Zubrick et al., 2007)

- Victoria (Reilly et al , 2010)

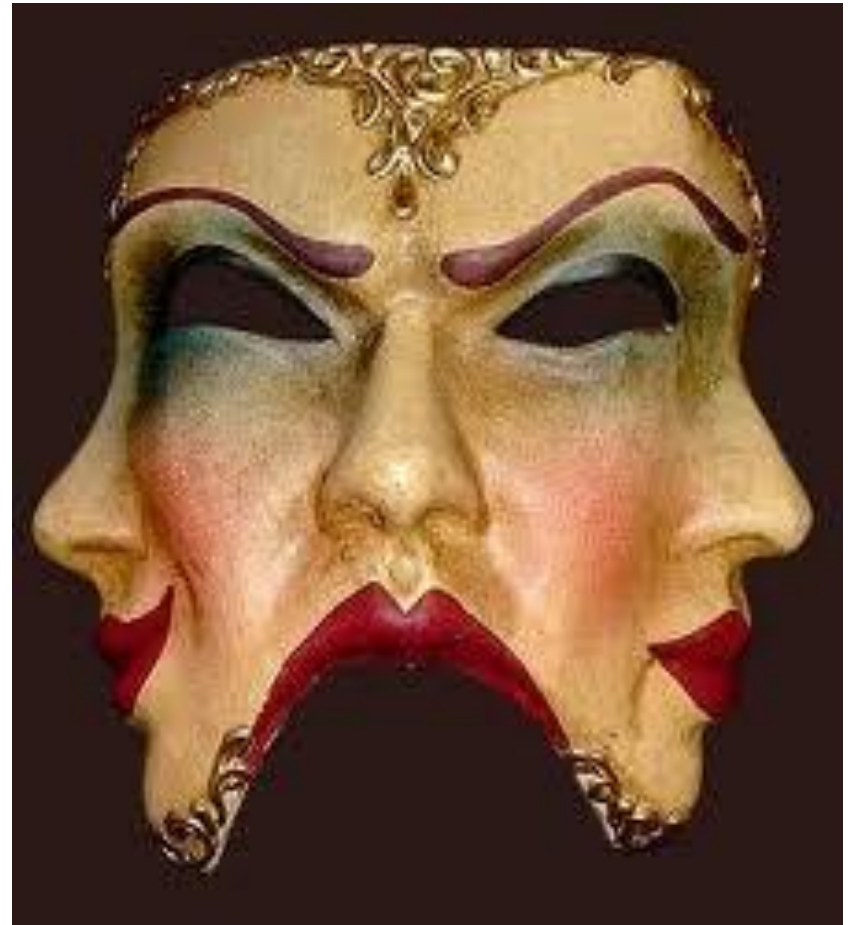
- National (McLeod & Harrison, 2009)

CSL Problems

- Obvious
 - 2 year olds
 - < 50 words
 - No 2-word utterances
 - 3yo
 - Unintelligible
 - 5 year old
 - Lisper

CSL Problems

- Obvious
- Undetected
 - Rude
 - Sullen
 - 1-word answers
 - Dunno, no, yes
 - indifferent



Communication, speech and language

Communication

- Exchange of information
 - Using text
 - Oral
 - Written
- Successful communication
 - Appropriate to the context
 - Logical
 - Assertive
 - Responsive

Communication, speech and language

Language

- Symbols
 - Words
 - Vocabulary
 - Grammar
 - Rules to combine words
 - Discourse
 - Rules to combine sentences

Communication, speech and language

Speech

- Sounds of the ambient language
 - 44 in English
 - 24 consonants - ps , mb
 - 20 vowels
 - The alphabet
- Articulating them

What children need to learn

	Reception	Expression	Metalinguistics
Sounds			
Vocabulary			
Grammar			
Discourse			

What children need to learn

- Children have to acquire “.....
competence as to when to speak, when
not, and as to what to talk about with
whom, when, where and in what
manner”

(Hymes 1972, p277)

What children need to learn

- Long words
 - Cogitate vs think
 - Initial weak syllables- spaghetti; rehearsal
- Complex noun phrases
 - That dog vs The little brown dog
 - That boy vs The boy, who is sitting down, is my brother
- Complex verb phrases
 - Modal verbs- might-could-should-shall
- Conjunctions
 - Within sentences
 - Subordinators-because; since;
 - Between sentences
 - We were going home

Why do children need robust CSL skills?

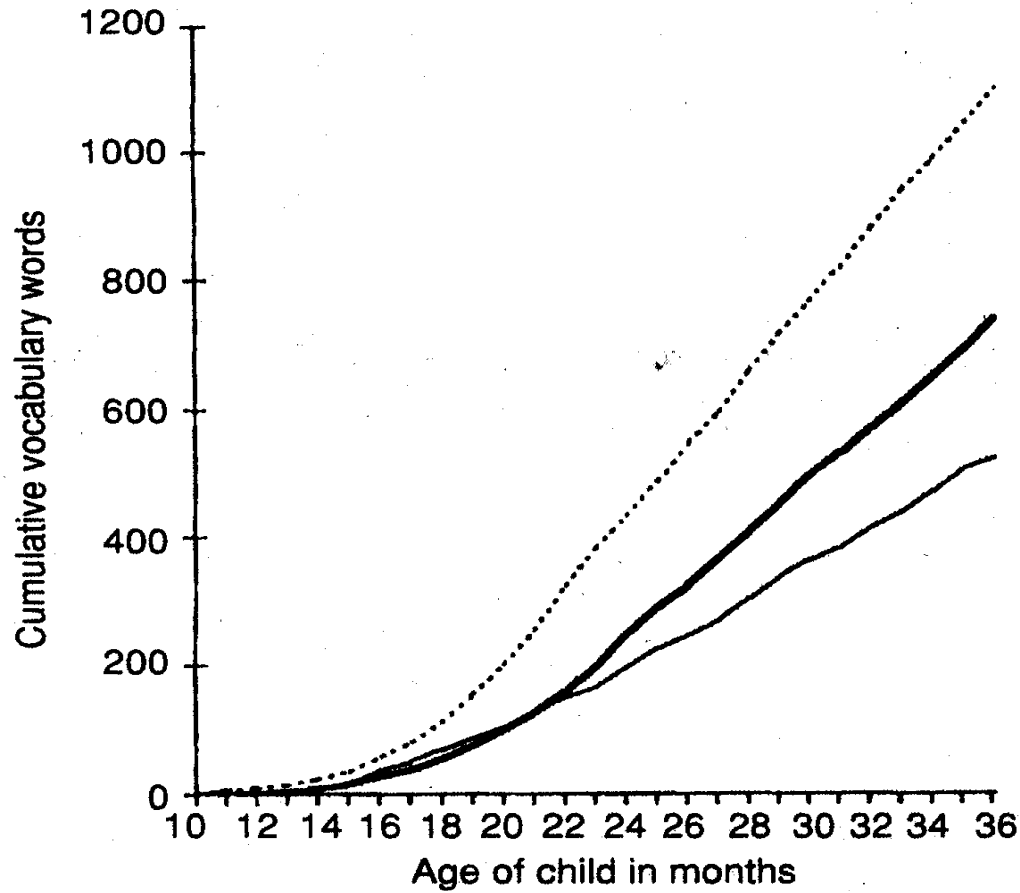
- Foundational/associated with
 - Academic achievement
 - via Literacy
 - Maths
 - Social
 - Empathy
 - Prosocial
 - Emotional
 - Vocational

Facilitating CSL acquisition

- Success breeds success
- Talking begets talking



Words



Frequency and
quality of input

Hart & Risley,
1995

Our research

- **Aim**
link between
 - exposure to caregiver talk during infancy
 - CSL status at 35 months

Our research

- **Aim**
link between
 - exposure to caregiver talk during infancy
 - CSL status at 35 months
- **Method**
- **Participants**
 - \approx 1900 children
- **Outcomes**
 - Vocabulary
 - Grammar
 - Communication
- **Adjusted for 16 factors associated with CSL acquisition**

Our research

- **Results**

After adjustment

- >15 minutes ↑
vocabulary
 - 5.26 (95% 2.61 to 7.90;
P=<0.001; ES 0.25 SD)
- >1 hour ↑ grammar
 - OR 1.32 (1.02 to 1.71;
P=0.03)

Our research

- **Results**

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- **Take home message**

- 1 hour a day
- routine tasks
 - bathing and feeding
- may reduce children's
vulnerability for CSL
problems.

Our research

Risk factors

- Boy
- >2 siblings
- Family history of CSL problems

No difference

- Breast feeding
- Maternal level of education
- Income
- Gestational age
- Birth weight

What children need to learn

- Exposure to a variety of genres
 - Recipe
 - An editorial
 - An invitation
 - Texting
 - Emailing

Providing kids with monitored talk with mature speakers

Classroom

Out of school

Selected references

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