

P.19 FIRST GESTURES, FIRST WORDS, FIRST SENTENCES: A PILOT STUDY FOR SLOVENIAN CHILDREN

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Gestures and words are very important in early language development. How do Slovenian children increase the lexicon and how do they use the gestures? When do two-word sentences occur? Which words do occur firstly?

A pilot study analyses the data for 110 Slovenian children, aged from 11 to 36 months of age. We take into account the gender, the age, the number of children in the family. The observed variables were: for age 10 – 18 months: Sound Effects and Animal Sounds, Animal Names, Vehicles, Toys, Food and Drink, Clothing, Body Parts, Furniture and Rooms, Small Household Items, Outside Things and Places to Go, People, Games and Routines, Action Words, Words About Time, Descriptive Words, Pronouns, Question Words, Prepositions and Locations, Quantifiers. First gestures, routines, plays and everyday activities, use of objects, role play, imitation, imaginative use of objects). For age 16 – 36 months: Section: Sound Effects and Animal Sounds, Animals, Vehicles, Toys, Food and Drink, Clothing, Body Parts, Small Household Items, Furniture and Rooms, Outside Things, Places to Go, People, Games and Routines, Action Words, Descriptive Words, Words About Time, Pronouns, Question Words, Prepositions and Locations, quantifiers and Articles, Helping Verbs, Connecting Words, understanding of sentences, word types, first sentences, MLU.

110 questionnaires were filled in by parents (95, 4% mothers, 2,8% fathers, 0,9% both). The sample was 56,9 % males, 43,1 % females, aged from 11 to 36 months (mean 22,35 months, SD=6,225 months).

The results show the distribution of the variables and the development of various types of words and gestures for Slovenian language.

