WHAT’S THE WORD IN WORD LEARNING RESEARCH?

LATEST RESEARCH HOT OFF THE PRESSES!

Shelley Gray, Arizona State University
Mary Alt, University of Arizona
Tiffany P. Hogan, Massachusetts General Hospital
Pui Fong Kan, University of Colorado at Boulder
Karla K. McGregor, University of Iowa
Andrea Pittman, Arizona State University
Derek Stiles, Rush University
Holly Storkel, University of Kansas

Invited Session
Language in Infants, Toddlers, and Preschoolers Committee
Disclosure Statement

• None of the presenters have any relevant financial or nonfinancial relationships to disclose.
FIRST THINGS FIRST: CHILDREN’S ABILITY TO DETECT THAT A WORD IS NEW TO THEM

Andrea Pittman
Department of Speech and Hearing Science
Arizona State University
The Word Learning Process

• Triggering
  • Detection of a new word

• Configuration
  • Form a stable acoustic representation
  • Form a semantic representation

• Engagement
  • Using the new word with other words
Our Kids

Age
- 8-12 year olds

Hearing
- Normal
- Mild-to-moderate hearing loss

Listening Conditions
- Quiet
- Noise

Stimulus Context
- Low
- High
They want *pum gorn*.

*(Pittman & Schuett, *Ear and Hearing*, 2013)*
Non-word Detection – Just Kids

Overall performance (percent correct)

Error analyses
- Over-triggering
- Under-triggering

(Pittman & Schuett, Ear and Hearing, 2013)
Non-word Detection – Just Kids

(Pittman & Schuett, Ear and Hearing, 2013)
Non-Word Detection – Adults Too

HIGH CONTEXT SENTENCES IN QUIET

PERCENT OF TOTAL

ADULTS
CHILDREN
ADULTS
CHILDREN
NORMAL HEARING
HEARING LOSS

OVER
UNDER
CORRECT

(Pittman, Pederson & Rash, in review)
Lexical Decision Task – Just Kids

(Rash & Pittman, preliminary data)
Lexical Decision Task – Just Kids

(Rash & Pittman, preliminary data)
Lexical Decision Task – Just Kids

(Nonsense Words)

“NOT REAL” (% Correct)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Quiet</th>
<th>Noise</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Normal Hearing</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Hearing Loss</td>
<td>90%</td>
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(Rash & Pittman, preliminary data)
Lexical Decision Task – Just Kids

(Rash & Pittman, preliminary data)
Conclusions

• Hearing loss reduces a child’s ability to detect new words
• Children with hearing loss tend to repair words they don’t know
Conclusions

Good news

• Their repair strategy may optimize perception of familiar speech

Bad news

• Their repair strategy may cause them to miss opportunities to learn new words