

DIRECTED OBSERVATION 3 - SENTENCES
SHS 331: NORMAL LANGUAGE ACQUISITION
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Directed Observation 3 - Sentences - The focus of this observation is to observe and consider the children's development of complete, grammatical sentences. Basic measures of sentence length, morphology and syntax are practiced.

Independent Study:

1. In Owens (2008), focus on the following sections that cover morphological and syntactic development of children in Brown's Stages I – V:
 - o Chapter 9, pp. 262-300, pay particular attention to pp. 263-273 and 286-288 (section on interrogatives), 289-291 (section on negatives)
2. Play close attention to terminology that is new. Also, there are charts in the above section of your chapter that will assist you with interpretation.
3. Complete Lab assignments 4 and 5 focused on counting morphemes, computing MLU, and assessing use of Brown's 14 grammatical morphemes. Read and learn about these morphemes so that you can study your child's sentences and identify whether or not the child used the morphemes correctly.

Preparation:

1. The above reading focuses on assessing children's length and complexity in sentences.
2. In addition to the above readings, there is a handout linked to the web site: Tables 2 and 3 from Miller (1981). This table can help you to compare the child's chronological age with the Mean Length of Utterance (MLU). You will find this helpful for interpreting your child's MLU.
3. Get the observation form from the web site to direct your notetaking.
4. Reread the guidelines for the directed observations to make certain that you understand all procedures, including materials and rules for conduct, for going to the child care program.
5. If you have any questions or concerns about your day care assignment or observing a child, please see Dr. Beverly.