



Language Development and Intervention



Typical Language Development:

- Roger Brown (1973) identified stages that provide a framework from which we can predict the path of typically expressive language development.
- Focuses on morphology and syntax.

Morphology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Structure and forms of words • Morpheme = smallest unit of meaning • Dance – danced – dancer ...
Syntax	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rules governing word order and word combinations




Morphology:

She is a good dancer.


He is running with the boys.

That was truly unbelievable.



Language Stages

Stage 1	• MLU: 1.75	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mean Length of Utterance • Calculated by writing down utterances and dividing by the number of morphemes. • Higher MLU = Higher proficiency • Predictor of reading ability?
Stage 2	• MLU: 2.25	
Stage 3	• MLU: 2.75	
Stage 4	• MLU: 3.5	
Stage 5	• MLU: 4	




Stages I-V:


Stage 1	• MLU: 1.75	Sentence Types: Agent+Action, Action+Object, Action+Locative, Entity+Locative, Possessor+Possession...
Stage 2	• MLU: 2.25	Present progressive (-ing), prepositions (in, on), plural (-s)
Stage 3	• MLU: 2.75	Irregular past tense (drew, wrote), possessive ('s), uncontractible copula (she is happy)
Stage 4	• MLU: 3.5	Articles (a, the), regular past tense (-ed), present tense, 3rd person regular (he jumps)
Stage 5	• MLU: 4	3rd person irregular (she does), uncontractible auxiliary (is he running), contractible auxiliary (they're running), contractible copula (she's)

Language Stages for AAC:

- Prentke Romich Company (PRC) – Language Lab

 <https://aaqlanguagelab.com>

- Compilation of different information detailing different stages of language development
- Information for teachers, speech-language pathologists, and parents
- Free resources and access to all materials through a subscription
- Details 6 stages of language development



Language Stages (per Language Lab):	
Stage 1	• 1 word at a time; direct another's behavior, make requests, label items & objects
Stage 2	• 2-3 word phrases, combining words to make more meaningful phrases
Stage 3	• Using meaningful word order, progressive -ing, plural -s
Stage 4	• Learning grammar and sentence structure, questions, negatives, irregular past tense
Stage 5	• Possessive 's, 3 rd person present, regular past tense
Stage 6	• Correct grammar and word order, increasing complexity

Language Stage 1:

- Emergent communicator
- Generally using 1 word at a time
- 1 word could mean continuation/recurrence, nomination, negation, etc.

Go to <https://acclanguageclub.com> for more information

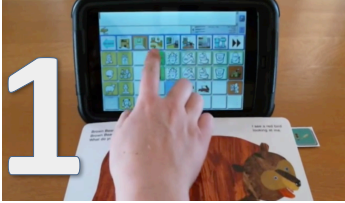
Language Stage 1 Goals:

- Use single words to communicate
- Increase vocabulary
- Direct another's behavior using single words
- Make requests using single words
- Express negatives using single words

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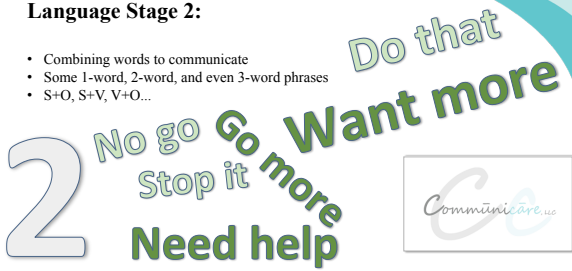
Language Stage 1 Intervention Example:

- Focus on saying "go" or "more" to request continuation during book-reading



Language Stage 2:

- Combining words to communicate
- Some 1-word, 2-word, and even 3-word phrases
- S+O, S+V, V+O...



Go to <https://aactlanguageclub.com> for more information

Language Stage 2 Goals:

- Combine 2-3 words to build phrases
- Increase vocabulary
- Increase use of meaningful phrases
- Use 2-3 words to direct another's behavior
- Use 2-3 words to make requests
- Use 2-3 words to express negatives



Go to <https://aactlanguageclub.com> for more information

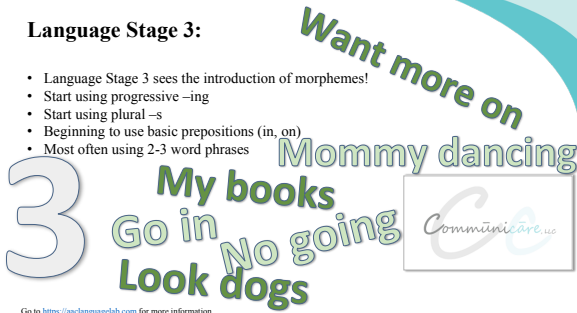
Language Stage 2 Intervention Example:

- Focus on simple word combinations, such as “you go” to request more reading.



Language Stage 3:

- Language Stage 3 sees the introduction of morphemes!
- Start using progressive –ing
- Start using plural –s
- Beginning to use basic prepositions (in, on)
- Most often using 2-3 word phrases



Go to <https://aachanageedeb.com> for more information

Language Stage 3 Goals:

- Combine words to form simple sentences
- Increase vocabulary
- Use plural nouns
- Use simple sentences to direct another's behavior
- Use simple sentences to make requests
- Use simple sentences to express negatives
- Use –ing for present progressive verbs
- Use prepositions
- Start to use infinitives (to+verb)



Go to <https://aachanageedeb.com> for more information

Language Stage 3 Intervention Example:

- Word on simple sentence structures involving colors, such as “I see (color)”



Language Stage 4:

- Wh questions start!
- Irregular past tense starts to emerge
- Possessive 's develops

4 What is it?
He told daddy
I saw it
Doggy's toy
Mommy's car



Go to <https://aclanguageclub.com> for more information

Language Stage 4 Goals:

- Combine words to form simple sentences
- Increase vocabulary
- Ask simple wh- questions
- Ask questions using pronoun-verb phrases (interrogatives)
- Use simple sentences to direct another's behavior
- Use simple sentences to make requests
- Use simple sentences to express negatives
- Use irregular past tense
- Start to use adjectives
- Start to use “is” and “are” correctly

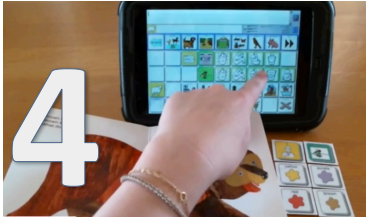
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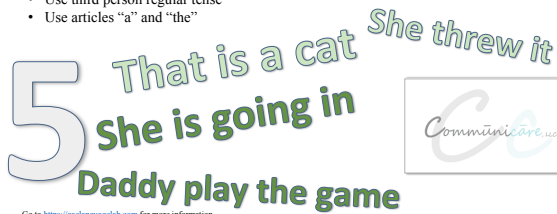
Language Stage 4 Intervention Example:

- Focus on irregular past tense verbs: "I saw (color)" or "I saw (color) + (animal)"



Language Stage 5:

- Distinguish between regular and irregular past tense verb use
- Use third person regular tense
- Use articles "a" and "the"



Go to <https://www.communicarellc.com> for more information

Language Stage 5 Goals:

- Combine words to form simple complete sentences
- Increase vocabulary
- Use simple complete sentences to direct another's behavior
- Use simple complete sentences to make requests
- Use simple complete sentences to express negatives
- Use past tense verbs "was" and "were"
- Use past tense -ed appropriately
- Start to use articles "a" and "the" correctly
- Use third person singular 's
- Add possessive 's to nouns
- Start to use future tense

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Go to <https://www.communicarellc.com> for more information

Language Stage 5 Intervention Example:

- Address future tense, such as "we are going to see (color)"



Language Stage 6:

- Uses just about all parts of speech
- Correct word order
- Complex sentences through use of conjunctions
- Reflexive pronouns
- Indefinite pronouns

6 It broke because it fell
I hurt myself
Everybody will go



Go to <https://aachanapadab.com> for more information

Language Stage 6 Goals:

- Combine words to form simple complete sentences
- Increase vocabulary
- Continue to use simple complete sentences to direct another's behavior
- Continue to use complete sentences to make requests
- Continue to use complete sentences to express negatives
- Use conjunctions to build complex sentences
- Start to use reflexive pronouns correctly
- Start to use indefinite pronouns correctly
- Start to use contractions (isn't)

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Go to <https://aachanapadab.com> for more information

Language Stage 6 Intervention Example:

- Work on increasing sentence complexity by adding conjunctions, such as "and."



In Summary:

- Language Stages (Brown) = Predictable path of language development
- Language Stages for an individual using AAC are similar
- Language-Based AAC Intervention focusing on different elements
 - 1-word
 - 2 – 3 word phrases
 - Progressive –ing, plural –s, basic propositions
 - Irregular past tense, wh- questions, interrogatives
 - Possessive 's, 3rd person present, regular past tense, articles
 - Conjunctions, reflexive pronouns, indefinite pronouns
- Individuals may present with "splintered" skills and/or goals