

# Musical aspects of child-directed speech (CDS) and how they affect speech development

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Language and music are two distinct disciplines. The sounds of speech and music are different between them. Some studies attempted to understand how particular aspects of CDS may lead to proper language development. We already know that to develop language, people need their needs to be met, and it is not only innate ability that plays a role, but also the conditions that will be created for the individual right after birth and in the years that follow.

Some studies showed that the key aspects are linked with musical aspects of speech. It has been noted that the musical elements of speech may then play an important, if not crucial, role in speech development. These trials have provided a better understanding of the development of correct communication between people allowing them to appropriate and healthy development of neuronal system, and as a result also language and cognitive functions.

In this presentation, the author will show how different aspects of speech drawn from the musical domain can influence language acquisition and development. The following features of sounds will be discussed: melodic aspects of speech development (Fernald et al. 1989), rhythm in music and language (Moreno- Núñez et al. 2021), harmony, dynamics and intensity of sound, agogics, and speed of speech, articulation, and pronunciation of speech sounds, timbre and quality of sound, structural and frequency properties of sound (Kraus 2021). The author will also show how attunement can lead to positive stimulation and facilitate language development (Rebuschat et al. 2012). Aspects relevant to the perception of subtle differences will be of paramount concern. Finally, the effects of stimulation deficits will be presented based on well-known literature examples, but also on the research, and how a lack of stimulation or surrounding the child with frightening, arousing sounds can lead to developmental blockage and delayed speech development (Rebuschat et al. 2012).

## References

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