

High Quality Language Creates High Quality Learning Environments

Roberta Michnick Golinkoff

Unidel H. Rodney Sharp Professor, University of Delaware

Tuesday, January 21, 2020

12:00 – 1:00 pm, Education 2005

Abstract: Language acquisition is an amazing feat. Within the span of the first three years of life, children are telling stories, talking on the phone, and conversing with strangers. Language scientists are no longer bogged down in an outmoded nature versus nurture debate. They now recognize that language is a complex problem explained only by complex theories that emphasize social, perceptual, and cognitive factors. Language is foundational to children's school achievement, self-regulation, and personal success. This talk reviews a set of principles for fostering high quality language environments. It also discusses some of the potential perils to language from the increasing use of technology. Finally, it introduces new language screeners that can help identify children with potential language problems.



Bio: Roberta Michnick Golinkoff, Ph.D., Cornell University, is the Unidel H. Rodney Sharp Professor of Education at the University of Delaware and director of the Child's Play, Learning, and Development laboratory. She is also a member of the Departments of Psychological and Brain Sciences and Linguistics and Cognitive Science. She has held many awards including the John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship and the American Psychological Association's Urie Bronfenbrenner Award for Lifetime Contribution to Developmental Psychology and, in 2017, she was awarded the Society for Research in Child Development's Distinguished Scientific Contribution award. In 2018, she was given the American Educational Research Association's Outstanding Public Communication of Education Research Award. Her research has been funded by the National Science Foundation, the National Institutes of Health, the Institute of Education Sciences, and the LEGO Foundation. In addition to over 200 journal publications and book chapters, she has authored 16 books and monographs. Passionate about the dissemination of psychological science for improving our schools and families' lives, she and Hirsh-Pasek (her long standing collaborator) also write books for parents and practitioners: *How Babies Talk* (1999); the award-winning *Einstein Never Used Flash Cards* (2004) and *A Mandate for Playful Learning in Preschool* (2009). Her latest book, *Becoming Brilliant: What Science Tells Us About Raising Successful Children* (APA Press) reached the *New York Times* best seller list in Education.