

VIDEO REVIEWS

Start Talking: Language Development in the First Two Years

Barnes, Sarah (1994)

Mind's Eye Video, P.O. Box 9, Cwnbran, Gwent, South Wales.

Video: 35 mins duration. Stg£45 (P & P Stg£3.95)

START TALKING: Language Development in the First Two Years will come as a delightful relief to all those involved in sharing information about communication development with others, whether they be students, other professionals or parents. The video follows several children chronologically over a two year period, charting their development in language within the context of overall communication development. The emphasis throughout is on the reciprocal interaction between infants or children and their communication partners. Specific areas of development are singled out for particular attention, including: early interaction starting with the newborn infant; non-verbal communication in the first twelve months of life; the development of babble; the transition to linguistic communication; early play; and simple techniques to foster communication development. One of the useful features of the video is the clear and concise repetition of suggestions for encouraging communication development, supplemented with graphic effects, reflecting the clinical experience of the author. Speech and language therapists in particular will enjoy the approach taken and will have little difficulty in identifying the 'therapist-mother'-child interaction from the interaction between other parents and their children!

Whilst some sense of continuity is lost because of the inclusion of several children, this is offset by the benefits of seeing children develop at different rates, but according to similar patterns. This video will save many hours of explanation and be an invaluable resource to any therapist or educator involved in sharing information about early communication.

*Martine Smith,
School of Clinical Speech & Language Studies,
Trinity College, Dublin.*