

First Language Acquisition

Babies are not born talking. They *learn* language, starting right after birth. How does this process take place? When do children master the skills needed to use language successfully? What stages do they go through as they learn to understand others and to talk themselves? This new edition of Eve Clark's best-selling, comprehensive textbook focuses on children's acquisition of a first language, the stages of development they go through, and how they use language as they learn. It follows children from their first sounds and words to the acquisition of adultlike skills in persuading, instructing, and storytelling, whether children are acquiring just one language or two at once. Skilfully integrating extensive data with coverage of current theories and debates, it is an essential guide to studying first language acquisition for courses in linguistics, developmental psychology, and cognitive science.

EVE V. CLARK is the Richard W. Lyman Professor in the Humanities and Professor of Linguistics at Stanford University. Her books include *Psychology and Language* (with H. H. Clark), *The Ontogenesis of Meaning*, *The Acquisition of Romance*, *The Lexicon in Acquisition*, and *Constructions in Acquisition* (with B. F. Kelly). She is an active researcher in the field who works on all aspects of meaning acquisition.

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To Damon Alistair
for all his talk

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