

LI. FURTHER NOTES ON EIGHTEEN-MONTHS VOCABULARIES

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A year ago I presented to this Academy at some length my reasons for studying the vocabularies of children at eighteen months. Among them are the following: At this age it is generally possible for even the untrained observer to make a fairly adequate record of a child's vocabulary; which is not likely to be the case much earlier. At eighteen months speech is still so elementary that analysis reveals much of the actual workings of baby minds. Since modern psychology demonstrates the very great importance of the earliest impressions, in fixing mental habits and attitudes that persist throughout life, it is the duty of the educator to learn what these vocabularies have to tell in regard to the infant's ideas and interests.

Surprisingly little has been done along this line. A careful search of all available literature shows that sixteen vocabularies have been published of eighteen-months-old English-speaking children. Some are given in full, while in other instances only the total number of words used is stated. Twelve of the published vocabularies are those of girls. One of the four boys' vocabularies is that of my elder son.

With the help of my friends I have collected twenty-three additional cases, sixteen cases of boy's vocabularies and seven of girl's vocabularies. Most of those who have furnished this material are well-educated persons, but there are probably certain errors in the statistics, as there are undoubtedly discrepancies in the methods which have been used by various individuals in collecting and arranging the vocabularies which have been published hitherto.

It is my hope to collect at least fifty cases, divided as equally as possible between boys and girls, and to make a detailed study of these. At present I am prepared to give only a few very general results; which, as will be seen, are so inconclusive that it is impossible to make deductions from them.

Name	Published Cases.	Sex	Source	Total Words
1 Allee	-----	Male	10	1
2 Cary	-----	Male	7	60
3 Gale 2	-----	Male	5	113
4 Oatman-Blachly	-----	Male	1	113
5 Nice 2	-----	Female	10	0

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6 Nice 3	Female	10	2
7 Gale 3	Female	5	33
8 Gale 1	Female	5	36
9 Watson	Female	11	74
10 Grant	Female	6	107
11 Mickens	Female	8	116
12 Dewey	Female	4	144
13 Nice 1	Female	9	145
14 Bateman	Female	2	175
15 Bohn	Female	3	207
16 Martindell	Female	5	233
Total words of 4 boys			287
Total words of 12 girls			1260
Total words of 16 children			1547
Average words of 4 boys			72
Average words of 12 girls			105
Average words of 16 children			97

Unpublished Cases

Name	Sex	Total Words
1 Dellinger	Male	0
2 Richards	Male	0
3 Town	Male	0
4 Baker (2)	Male	2
5 Kraettli	Male	3
6 Morse (1)	Male	4
7 Robb	Male	7
8 Reaves	Male	8
9 Southwick	Male	10
10 Gossard	Male	12
11 Karcher	Male	36
12 Monroe	Male	68
13 Court	Male	71
14 Ratti	Male	71
15 Oatman-Blachly (2)	Male	77
16 Dale	Male	108
17 Morse (2)	Female	0
18 Baker (3)	Female	2
19 Baker (1)	Female	9
20 Brooks	Female	9
21 Nice (4)	Female	9
22 Rice	Female	25
23 Helliwell	Female	228
Total words of 16 boys		477
Total words of 7 girls		282
Total words of 23 children		759
Average words of 16 boys		30
Average words of 7 girls		40
Average words of 23 children		33

Summary of 39 Cases.

Total words of 20 boys	764
Total words of 19 girls	1542
Total words of 39 children	2306

Average words of 20 boys	38
Average words of 19 girls	81
Average vocabulary of 39 children	59

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