

# Research Directions

Office of Research Services

## ***BEST RESEARCH INTO LANGUAGE LEARNING***

Phonological disorders, that is disorders that affect children's ability to develop easily understood speech, are a large part of speech therapists' caseloads. Research suggests that not picking up on how a language sounds is also a primary cause of reading deficits in children.

Professor Catherine Best heads a team that is investigating how infants become native speaker-listeners of the adult language around them.



"Our first specific aim is to examine how a child perceives language through listening to adult speech surrounding them, which then lays the foundation for their own development of speech" said Professor Best. "The second aim is to then describe the development of common sound patterns in infant vocalizations of speech".

By investigating normal phonological development the team will be provided with insights into developmental reading disabilities. The research will add to what we know about second language learning, which is of increasing importance to our bilingual, multicultural society.



**Project Title:** *Early Ontogeny of Attunement to the Language of Environment.*

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