

Inter text

Julia Gillen



The Language
of Children

contents

Acknowledgements xi

Unit one: Setting the scene **1**

Aim of this book 1

Starting points in investigating children's language 2

Towards a sociocultural approach to language development 6

Summary 9

How to use this book 9

Unit two: Writing and multimodality **11**

Meaning-making 11

Mathematical understanding 19

Writing in context 20

Summary 30

Unit three: Play and talk **31**

Transcribing talk 31

Language in play 32

Theorising the significance of play 38

The Childphone Project 39

Summary 58

Unit four: Early words **59**

First words: nineteenth-century studies 59

Comprehension and production: fluidity in meaning 60

Language routines 68

Summary 70

Unit five: Communication before language

- Books before speech?! 73
- Newborn babies 75
- Early communication development 76
- Summary 78

Unit six: Conclusions: theories about child language development

- Sociocultural explanations of language development 80
- Cognitivism 82
- Nativists 82
- Vygotsky and his influence 85

- IPA symbols for English phonemes 87*
- Ideas for further projects 89*
- Further reading 91*
- Bibliography 93*
- Index of terms 97*