

## **Prosodic and body-movement signals ally in the development of language and communication**

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### **ABSTRACT**

Multimodal strategies are essential in the process of language and communicative development in infancy and childhood. It is well known that pointing gestures precede and predict lexical development, and that young infants rely on the melodic aspects of speech to identify the limits of words and phrases. In fact, caregivers spontaneously use these enhancing strategies, which are helpful to facilitate infants' and children's language development. In this talk we will examine these phenomena and beyond. We will see how young learners exploit the interface between prosodic and body-movement signals to process, comprehend and express linguistic structure and linguistic meaning, and to entrain the emergence of other communicative and linguistic domains. We will examine typical language development as well as the case of children with Developmental Language Disorder, for whom multimodal keys can be strategic to overcome difficulties with other aspects of language and communication.

**Keywords:** Prosody; Body-Movement; Language Development; Communication.