

## UNDERSTANDING MOTHERESE AND THE ROLE OF MOTHERESE IN DEVELOPMENT OF VARIOUS AREAS OF CHILDREN WITH HEARING IMPAIRMENT

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**Abstract:** Mother tongue is the first language spoken by mothers all over the world to their children before and after their birth, and it is the first language the child hears. The child receives this mother tongue from his family environment, and by listening to it, he starts speaking this language in the form of words. Long before the child utters his first words, the sounds of speech stimulate the areas of his brain that plan speech. The baby's brain starts laying the foundation for forming words long before speech begins. Using baby talk correctly can develop the baby's brain and help him speak early. How to help your baby talk? This is a common question that comes to the mind of many mothers. One method that many mothers use to talk to the child and thus they teach them to speak. This method is called motherese. Motherese is considered to be helpful in the development of speech, language and communication and many other areas of all babies from 0 to 18 months. This article presents a better understanding of motherese and its effects on the development of various areas in children with hearing impairment.

**Index Terms:** Motherese, Parentese, Mother tongue, Vocabulary, Speech, Language, Communication, Baby-talk, Caretaker-speech, Infant-directed speech, Child-directed speech etc.

### INTRODUCTION

Language acquisition is a natural process. Language plays an important role in a child's development in the early years. Parents and caregivers should make active efforts to promote children's language development and develop their language skills, because language development is also a part of a gradual development in a child, just like physical, mental and emotional development. Research done on infants, shows that long before a child utters his first words, the sounds of speech stimulate the areas of his brain that plan speech. The study published in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences shows that the baby's brain starts laying the foundation for forming words long before speech begins. This has many important implications for us as parents. Young children are not able to express themselves very well for at least the first few months of their lives. Most children speak their first simple words only around their first birthday. But this does not mean that mother and child do not communicate until then. As a mother, she communicates with her baby through many mediums, such as sound, sight, and touch. The most natural way to communicate with babies is through baby talk. According to the latest research, using baby talk in the right way can develop a baby's brain and help him speak early. How to help your baby talk? This is a common question that comes to the mind of many mothers. One method that many mothers use to talk to the baby and thus teach them to speak is

called motherese. According to Joel Schwarz (July 31, 1997), "It may be baby talk, but 'motherese' is an infant's pathway to learn the language."

### **Meaning of motherese -**

Motherese is the first language spoken by mothers all over the world before and after the birth of their children, and it is the first language the child hears. This language is used by mothers to develop language in their children through motherese. Mothers are not the only ones who speak "motherese". Fathers, elder siblings and others also talk to babies and young children in this special "baby talk". But the mother plays the most important role in the development of this primary language, because during infancy, the child spends most of his time with his mother. The more the mother talks to the child, the more the child will develop language. The conversation made by the mother to the child is called baby talk and this baby talk is known as "parentese or motherese". Motherese is also called parentese, baby-talk, caretaker-speech, infant-directed speech and child-directed speech. motherese is suitable for all babies from 0 to 18 months and is believed to help develop babies' communication skills. motherese is characterised by a high pitch, simple vocabulary, sentence structure and a slow pace with exaggerated intonation. motherese attracts and keeps babies' attention and aids language learning. Talking to babies has always been fundamental to language development, but new research shows that the way we speak to babies is just as crucial for them to develop their understanding and ability to form their own sentences. The exaggerated speech we naturally use with young children is often referred to as 'motherese'. Motherese is a kind of speech that babies learn during early childhood.

### **Characteristics of motherese -**

Motherese typically has a higher pitch than adult-directed speech, which may attract the infant's attention and make them more receptive to the caregiver's words. Motherese often uses a limited, simplified vocabulary, focusing on everyday objects and action, which helps infants learn basic words and concepts. Sentences in Motherese are typically shorter and simpler than those used in adult-directed speech, making it easier for infants to process and understand. Motherese has an exaggerated tone, with more emphasis on certain words and phrases, which may help infants learn about word stress and sentence structure. Caregivers often repeat phrases and sounds, which help infants recognize patterns and learn vocabulary. Motherese includes the use of special words and sounds, such as "pee-pee" for bus, "doggie" for dog, and "mum" for water. Long pauses between utterances and after key words may help infants process information and learn the rhythm of the language. However, the use of such sound-based or nonsense words in place of or with meaningful words during the mothering process should be avoided or minimized.

### **Importance of motherese -**

Motherese has benefits far beyond helping babies and young children recognize the phonetics of a language. The first 1000 days is a critical period for speech and language development as this is the time when the brain is best able to absorb language. Carrión says that if this crucial window of opportunity closes without exposure to the language, it will be more difficult for a child to learn.

Studies show that the use of motherese by adults when communicating with those trying to learn a second language leads to better understanding. To this end, simplifying your words and emphasizing key phrases allows for easier assimilation of new phrases and vocabulary words learned. This infant communication technique is particularly useful in workplaces and classroom settings. In addition to aiding in sound recognition, incorporating motherese often makes it easier for young children to process and understand complex sentence structures without needing to produce the same style themselves. This simplified linguistic approach, with a slower pace, allows young children's brains the opportunity to understand sentence meanings without having to fully expand on complex constructions. Incorporating adjustments in pronunciation while, interacting with people in the early stages is important for overall success. Communication development in the early stages has been seen to work towards long-term development. Even though adopting Motherese may seem foreign at first, using it when interacting with young children or individuals who are still learning the language can bring positive results in their comprehension and pronunciation skills.

### **Needs of motherese for children with hearing impairment -**

Motherese is a term used in the study of children's language acquisition to describe the way mothers often talk to their young children. 'Motherese helps parents and caregivers connect with their children and helps children develop language skills.' But if the child is deaf or separated from the parents, he or she has problems developing language skills. The process of language acquisition is different in deaf children. A child deprived of mother tongue due to deafness or to some extent due to separation from parents is actually language impaired in the verbal communication process. Perhaps a child who cannot hear his or her mother's lullabies later becomes voiceless. Deaf children born to deaf parents are generally exposed to sign language at birth and their sign language acquisition follows a normal developmental timeline. However, at least 90% of deaf children are born to hearing parents who use a spoken language at home. Hearing loss prevents many deaf children from hearing spoken language to the extent necessary for language acquisition. This leads to language deprivation in infants. Therefore, the role of mothers becomes extremely important in such a situation.

### **Role of motherese in education of children with hearing impairment -**

Although the main objective of motherese is to develop language in children, but motherese forms the basis for the development of many areas in children. The following is a summarized role of motherese in the development of children in various areas -

#### ***(1) Increases language acquisition -***

In the Motherese process, the mother talks to the child in a slow pace, uses exaggerated voices and repeats things again and again. In these continuous processes characterized by speed, voice and repetition, children get enough time to understand facial expressions, lip reading, listening to speech and acquiring language. It is also interesting and entertaining for them. Therefore, such activities make it easier for hearing impaired children to process and understand speech.

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***(2) Expands the child's vocabulary -***

Language is an acquired process. The language that the child hears in his environment, the same language develops naturally in him. Therefore, there is a need to make him listen to the language. Motherese plays an important role in teaching language to children. A study by the University of Washington Institute for Learning & Brain Sciences shows that children who are used to motherese language start speaking early. Children of parents who attended motherese coaching babbled more and spoke more words from the age of 14 months. Speech and language skills also help young children to read, write, and develop interpersonal skills.

***(3) Motherese enhances communication between parent and child -***

Parents engaging their child in language exchange or conversation promote communication between the two. Parents who use motherese receive more trust and loyalty from their children than those who do not use it. Therefore, it is important to use motherese as much as possible to develop a strong emotional bond and communication between parent and child.

***(4) Increases attention and bonding -***

Motherese is fun and engaging, so its playful and engaging nature helps to attract and retain young children's attention, which is important for learning. During Motherese, practising positive, loving touch with babies, whether caressing, patting, holding them while talking, etc., the mother is physically connected to her baby and the exchange of energy has a positive effect on both, increasing attention and bonding.

***(5) Develops motor speech and language skills -***

Motherese is one of the effective ways to strengthen cognitive and social development skills. Moreover, it activates the brain areas for motor speech. Regular interactions using Motherese help children learn to speak well and learn to speak language easily. So when they start pre-school, they are well equipped linguistically and are good at expressing themselves clearly.

***(6) Facilitates social interaction -***

Motherese encourages social interaction, as children respond more to this style of communication than to adult-directed speech. It promotes social interaction, especially between caregivers and infants. Infants spend most of their time with their caregivers. During this time, they are undergoing some form of communication with each other. Spending more time with each other and communicating is very important for the linguistic development of the child.

***(7) Promotes positive emotional bonding -***

The positive and loving tone of motherese promotes a strong emotional bond between caregivers and children, which is essential for overall development. Motherese is an important component of

emotional bonding and promotes learning experiences between child and parent. The more time and love a family member gives to the child, the stronger the emotional bond the child develops with that family member. This strong bond can be used by that family member to teach the child language during motherese. Parents who understand the importance of mother tongue, in particular, can actively involve the mother in their conversations with their child, which can greatly benefit the child's language development and overall well-being.

***(8) Develops natural conversation -***

During motherese, parents can talk to the hearing impaired child as normally as they would with children with normal hearing. They should remember to make sure that the child is using hearing aids. One must also ensure that the hearing aids are working optimally. They must speak to the child in as natural a way as possible, preferably in a slightly slower manner, ensuring that the child is looking at them. Consciously label things around him. Talk about all the events and activities happening around him. There is no need to be too artificial in the conversation.

***(9) More beneficial for hearing impaired children with hearing implants -***

Mother tongue plays a role in cognitive and emotional development, as the conversations and bonds that develop from it are important for the overall development of the child. Hearing ability is important for the natural development of mother tongue. But mother tongue works effectively even in the case of hearing loss. Mother tongue is even more useful for children with hearing implants. Because it is naturally slower, it emphasizes key words and uses repetition. All these features make mother tongue easier for children with hearing implants to hear, learn and understand speech.

***(10) Some other important roles of motherese -***

Motherese promotes simplified language input in children and enhances language comprehension. It facilitates social interaction among children and helps lay the foundation for good education for the future. It boosts self-confidence in children with special social needs and children with disabilities and helps them to form their own identity. It plays an important role in enhancing the language ability of children as well as their communication skills.

## **CONCLUSION**

The conversation between a mother and her infant is called baby-talk, and this baby-talk is also known as "parentese or motherese". Motherese is also referred to as parentese, baby-talk, caretaker-speech, infant-directed speech, and child-directed speech. Motherese is known to help develop speech, language, communication, and other areas for all infants between 0 and 18 months of age. Motherese enhances infants' language acquisition, expands vocabulary, improves communication between parent and child, increases attention and attachment, develops motor speech and language skills, facilitates social interactions, enhances positive emotional

relationships, develops natural conversation, and is more beneficial for hearing-impaired children with hearing implants.

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