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How Children Learn Language

Within three years of birth, children acquire several thousand words, figure out how to build and understand complex sentences, and master the sound system of their language – all before they can tie their shoes.

How do children learn language? How can they be so good and so fast – better even than the most gifted adult?

In this engaging and accessible book, William O'Grady provides a highly readable overview not only of the language acquisition process itself, but also of the ingenious experiments and techniques that researchers use to investigate this mysterious phenomenon. It is ideal for anyone – parent or student – who is curious about how language works and how it is learned.

WILLIAM O'GRADY is Professor of Linguistics at the University of Hawaii. His previous publications include *Syntactic Development* (1997) and *Syntactic Carpentry: An Emergentist Approach to Syntax* (2004).

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General editor: Jean Aitchison, *Rupert Murdoch*
Professor of Language and Communication,
University of Oxford

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