

Ph.D. in "Life Course Research" – Psychological curriculum

Academic Year 2023-2024

Title: Infancy/Childhood

Professors Alessandra Sansavini¹, Chiara Suttora¹, Laura Zampini²

¹University of Bologna, ²University of Milano-Bicocca

E-mail: alessandra.sansavini@unibo.it; chiara.suttora@unibo.it; laura.zampini1@unimib.it

Objectives

The module will address child and parent communication and the role of communication with parents in typical and atypical development. Educational and clinical implications will be discussed.

Program

Monday afternoon (Instructor: prof. Alessandra Sansavini):

From communication to language in typically and atypically developing children

Continuity and multimodality in communication and language development will be illustrated in typical development and in the conditions of preterm birth and language delay. The role of an enriched environment will be discussed to promote gestural and verbal communication in typical and atypical development.

Tuesday afternoon (prof. Chiara Suttora):

How environment can shape language development

Proximal and distal environmental factors shaping children's developmental trajectories and outcomes in communication and language development will be presented. A particular focus will be given to the role of parent-child interaction and home-learning experiences. Distal factors' roles, such as living in a system of economic poverty and other social risk factors, will also be reviewed.

Wednesday afternoon (prof. Laura Zampini):

The impact of diagnosis disclosure on parents

Parents' psychological experience and the impact of this communication on their child's perception and personal and familiar well-being will be addressed considering the time in which the communication occurs, i.e., prenatally, at birth, or during child development. Affective and cognitive factors determining the satisfaction level with diagnosis disclosure will be considered.

Suggested lecture

Adamson, L. B., Kaiser, A. P., Tamis-LaMonda, C. S., Owen, M. T., & Dimitrova, N. (2020). The developmental landscape of early parent-focused language intervention. *Early Childhood Research Quarterly*, 50, 59-67.

D'Souza D., D'Souza H., & Karmiloff-Smith A. (2017). Precursors to language development in typically and atypically developing infants and toddlers: the importance of embracing complexity. *Journal of Child Language*, 44, 591-627.

Kenny, T., Bogart, K., Freedman, A., Garthwaite, C., Henley, S. M., Bolz-Johnson, M., ... & Woodman, D. (2022). The importance of psychological support for parents and caregivers of children with a rare disease at diagnosis. *Rare Dis Orphan Drugs*, 1, 7.

Requirements