

TABLE 7.1

Social Interaction Techniques of Caregivers

CAREGIVER TECHNIQUE	DESCRIPTION	OUTCOME	EXAMPLE
Child-directed speech	Language directed to infants and children characterized by high pitch, exaggerated intonations, elongated vowels, short and simple sentences, and repetition.	Increases infants' attention to language, facilitating their comprehension and acquisition of language.	(playing peek-a-boo) "Where—is—Tommy?" (exaggerated intonation) "Peek—a—boo—I—see—you!"
Joint attention	Adults labeling and talking about objects on which the child's attention is focused.	Encourages vocabulary acquisition.	An adult noticing an infant looking at a bird and saying, "That's a bird. Do you hear it chirping?"
Expansion	Adults adding to—or expanding—the child's incomplete statement as a way to model more complex language.	Encourages the development of more complex grammar.	When a child says, "doggie sleep," an adult saying, "Yes, the doggie is sleeping. She's tired."
Recasting	Adults reproducing the child's utterance as a semantically similar expression that adds new information to model more complex language.	Encourages the development of more complex grammar.	A child saying, "We go home?" and the adult replying, "No, we're going to the store."

SOURCES: Brown & Bellugi, 1964; Campbell & Namy, 2003; Fernald, 1992; Nicholas, Lightbown, & Spada, 2001; Rollins, 2003; Sachs, 1989; Scherer & Olswang, 1984; Tomasello, 2005, 2006.