

3 Language acquisition by children and teenagers

The following is a transcription of conversation between a girl (Claire) of age 1 year 8 months and her mother, in the kitchen of their home.

Discuss ways in which Claire and her mother are using language here. You should refer to specific details from the transcription, relating your observations to ideas from your studies of language acquisition.

- Mother:** will you please sit on your stool (.) youre in my way (.) please sit on your stool
- Claire:** on stool mommy way
- Mother:** youre in my way (.) yes (.) put your foot on your own stool
- Claire:** own stool
- Mother:** thats right (.) this is my stool and that belongs to you 5
- Claire:** mommy (2) help
- Mother:** help(?) (.) what do you want(?)
- Claire:** mommy help
- Mother:** help you with your water(?)
- (Claire tries to get down from her stool) 10
- Claire:** claire help (2) claire help
- Mother:** you can get down by yourself (3) big girl (.) yes you did it all by yourself
- Claire:** again
- Mother:** again (?) (.) alright
- (Claire climbs back on her stool and then gets down from it again) 15
- Claire:** big self
- Mother:** by yourself
- (Mother rests her foot on the side of Claire's stool)
- Claire:** mommy sit CLAIRE stool
- Mother:** what(?) 20
- Claire:** mommy sit claire stool
- Mother:** im sitting on your stool (.) im on your stool
- Claire:** my claire stool

Mother: oh my FOOT(?) (1) you want me to move my foot (?)

Claire: yep

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TRANSCRIPTION KEY

(.) = micro-pause

(1) = pause in seconds

UPPER CASE = increased volume

underlined = stressed syllable

(?) = questioning intonation