# Supplemental Material

**Table S1.** The Test of Grammatical Comprehension for Children TCGB [35].

# Structures Number of Items Sub-Categories

Locative items 14 Topological (under/over; in/out; beside/far) Projectives (front/back, from/to, between)

Nominal (number  singolar/plural; gender male/female)

Inflectional items 16

Affirmative active items 10

Negative active items 6

Affermative passive items 10

Negative passive items 6

Verbal (number singolar/plural; tense present/past/future) Possessive (singolar/plural)

SV: Subject Verb (i.e. “The mother is doing the washing”) Reversible probable (i.e. “The mother is combing the little girl’s hair”)

Reversible neutral (i.e. “The little boy is pushing the little girl”) Reversible improbable (i.e. “The little boy feeds the mother”)

Reversible with subject object inanimate-animate (i.e. “The paper is burning the boy”) SV: Subject Verb (i.e. “The little boy isn’t sleeping”)

SVO irreversible: Subject Verb Object irreversible (i.e. “The cat isn’t eating the fish”) SVO reversible: Subject Verb Object reversible (i.e. “The little girl isn’t pushing the boy”) Irreversible (i.e. “The apple is eaten by the little girl”)

Reversible probable (i.e. “The girl is dressed by the mother”) Reversible improbable (i.e. “The dog is being bitten by the boy”) Reversible neutral (i.e. “The dog is being pulled by the man”)

SV (i.e. “The piano is not played”)

SVA irreversible: Subject Verb Agent irreversible (i.e. “The apple isn’t taken by the little girl”) SVA reversible: Subject Verb Agent reversible (i.e. “The boy is not pushed by the girl”)

Relative items 8 Embedded (i.e. “The little boy who is on the table is eating the jam”),

Right Branching (i.e. “The father is holding the balloon that the little boy is bursting”)

Dative items 6 AAA: Animate-animate-animate (i.e. “The swallow’s taking the worm to the little bird”)

AIA: Animate-inanimate-animate (i.e. “The father’s taking the cigarettes to the little boy”)

Abbreviations: SV: Subject Verb; SVO: Subject Verb Object; SVA: Subject Verb Agent; AAA: Animate Animate Animate; AIA: Animate Inanimate Animate.

**Table S2.** Grid of Analysis of Spontaneous Speech GASS.

# GASS: Grid of Analysis of Spontaneous Speech

**Level**

# Mean chronological age (months)

**Age range (months)**

# Mean Length

**of Utterance**

# (words)

Level 0 9 8-12 -

Level 1 14 12-18 -

Pre-linguistic stage: spontaneous language production is limited to babbling, sounds, and sporadic single words.

Holophrastic stage: true words are few in number but single word utterances begin to be used consistently.

Level 2 20 19-25 1.4 Early combinatorial or presyntactic stage: emergence of two and three word

combinations but single word utterances prevail (about 80%).

Level 3

23 20-26 2.15

Telegraphic or protosyntactic stage: Emergence of subject-verb-object multiword structures that are ungrammatical for omission of free morphemes in most obligatory contexts

Level 4 27

24-31 2.6 Grammatical stage one: acquisition of full control of free morphology and basic rules of the main clause in simple sentences; most complex sentences still

present omission of free morphemes and subordinate clause functors.

Level 5 31 28-34 3.1 Grammatical stage two: grammatical control extends to many types of complex

sentences with production of well-formed, long and complex sentences.

2