

Toddler Vocabulary Arranged by Frequency

<u>Words</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
I	9.5
No	8.5
Yes/yea	7.6
my	5.8
the	5.2
want	5.0
is	4.9
it	4.9
that	4.9
a	4.6
go	4.4
mine	3.8
you	3.2
what	3.1
on	2.8
in	2.7
here	2.7
more	2.6
out	2.4
off	2.3
some	2.3
help	2.1
all done	1.0
	<u>96.3%</u>

26 core words
shown at left
comprise 96.3
percent of the total
words used by
toddlers in this
study

Are any of these
words picture
producers?

Are these words
commonly seen on
communication
boards?

Banajee *et al.*



Vocabulary Usage of Pre-School Children

The Statistical Dominance of Core Vocabulary

In the present study of preschool children, the 50 most frequently occurring words represent approximately 60% of the total sample, while the 100 most frequently occurring words accounted for 73% of the total sample. (The Jones Sampling, Lincoln Nebraska, 1987)

(The top 250 words accounted for 85% of the total words.)

**David R. Beukelman,
Rebecca Jones, and
M. Rowan
AAC, December, 1989,
Vol. 5/No. 4**



333 Most Frequently Occurring Preschool Words: The Marvin Sampling

“Vocabulary-Use Patterns in Preschool Children:
Effects of Context and Time Sampling”

a	bite	doesn't	goes	hum	maybe	or	still	today	we're
about	black	dog	going	I	me	our	some	together	well
after	blue	doing	gonna	I'll	mean	ours	somebody	too	went
again	both	don't	good	I'm	messy	out	someone	top	were
all	box	done	great	if	middle	over	something	toys	what
almost	boy	door	green	in	mine	paint	sometimes	trees	what's
already	bugs	down	guys	inside	mom	people	somewhere	try	when
also	but	drink	had	is	mommy	pet	stop	trying	where
an	buy	duck	hair	isn't	more	name	stuff	turn	where's
and	by	eat	hand	it	most	pick	swing	turtles	which
another	bye	eating	hands	it's	move	piece	tape	two	while
ant	call	else	has	juice	much	play	tell	um	who
any	came	even	have	jump	must	please	than	up	who
are	can	everybody	haven't	jumped	my	push	that	us	whole
aren't	can't	everything	he	jumping	myself	put	that's	use	why
around	candy	face	he's	just	Name	ready	the	used	with
as	car	fall	her	kind	name	really	their	very	won't
at	catch	find	head	know	named	red	them	wait	would
away	cause	finger	hear	last	need	remember	then	want	ya
baby	chair	fire	hello	leaves	never	ride	there	wanted	yes
back	come	first	help	let	new	right	there's	was	yet
bad	comes	five	here	let's	next	room	there's	wasn't	you
bad	cookie	fixed	here's	lift	nice	run	these	watch	you'll
ball	corn	fly	hi	like	no	said	they	water	you're
bathroom	could	foot	high	little	not	same	they'll	way	your
be	couldn't	for	hill	long	of	saw	they're	we	yours
bean	cup	from	him	look	off	say	thing	we'll	
because	cut	found	his	looking	oh	see	things		
before	day	get	hold	lot	other	she	this		
being	did	gets	home	lunch	ok	she's	those		
bet	didn't	getting	horse	made	old	show	three		
better	different	girl	hot	make	on	shut	threw		
big	do	girls	house	man	one	side	through		
bird	does	give	how	many	only	sit	time		
birds	doctor	go	huh	may	open	so	to		

Christine A. Marvin,
David R. Beukelman,
Denise Bilyeu
AAC, Vol. 10, Dec., 1994

333 Most Frequently Occurring Preschool Words: The Marvin Sampling

Compared with Banajee Sampling: all words present

a	bite	doesn't	goes	hum	maybe	or	still	today	we're
about	black	dog	going	I	me	our	some	together	well
after	blue	doing	gonna	I'll	mean	ours	somebody	too	went
again	both	don't	good	I'm	messy	out	someone	top	were
all	box	done	great	if	middle	over	something	toys	what
almost	boy	door	green	in	mine	paint	sometimes	trees	what's
already	bugs	down	guys	inside	mom	people	somewhere	try	when
also	but	drink	had	is	mommy	pet	stop	trying	where
an	buy	duck	hair	isn't	more	name	stuff	turn	where's
and	by	eat	hand	it	most	pick	swing	turtles	which
another	bye	eating	hands	it's	move	piece	tape	two	while
ant	call	else	has	juice	much	play	tell	um	who
any	came	even	have	jump	must	please	than	up	who
are	can	everybody	haven't	jumped	my	push	that	us	whole
aren't	can't	everything	he	jumping	myself	put	that's	use	why
around	candy	face	he's	just	Name	ready	the	used	with
as	car	fall	her	kind	name	really	their	very	won't
at	catch	find	head	know	named	red	them	wait	would
away	cause	finger	hear	last	need	remember	then	want	ya
baby	chair	fire	hello	leaves	never	ride	there	wanted	yes
back	come	first	help	let	new	right	there's	was	yet
bad	comes	five	here	let's	next	room	there's	wasn't	you
bad	cookie	fixed	here's	lift	nice	run	these	watch	you'll
ball	corn	fly	hi	like	no	said	they	water	you're
bathroom	could	foot	high	little	not	same	they'll	way	your
be	couldn't	for	hill	long	of	saw	they're	we	yours
bean	cup	from	him	look	off	say	thing	we'll	
because	cut	found	his	looking	oh	see	things		
before	day	get	hold	lot	other	she	this		
being	did	gets	home	lunch	ok	she's	those		
bet	didn't	getting	horse	made	old	show	three		
better	different	girl	hot	make	on	shut	threw		
big	do	girls	house	man	one	side	through		
bird	does	give	how	many	only	sit	time		
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David R. Beukelman,
Denise Bilyeu
AAC, Vol. 10, Dec., 1994

Vanderheiden & Kelso (1988) found the same phenomenon in the elicited speech corpus of middle aged adults by Howes (1966)

... the 50 most frequently occurring words of a sample account for 40 to 50% of the total words communicated, while the 100 most frequently occurring words accounted for 60% of the total sample.

David R. Beukelman,
Rebecca Jones, and
M. Rowan
AAC, December, 1989,
Vol. 5/No. 4



Adult Vocabulary Usage

The Balandin Sampling, AAC, 1999

- **Conversational samples were collected from 34 non-disabled subjects across four work sites**
- **There was a small stable core vocabulary of 347 words which accounted for 78% of the conversational sample**

Susan Balandin
Teresa Iacono
AAC, Volume 14, No. 3,
September, 1999



Composite List of 347 Core Words

a	break	eight	got	I've	morning	people	some	thirty	well
about	but	either	gotta	job	much	person	someone	this	went
actually	buy	eleven	had	just	mum	phone	something	those	were
after	by	else	half	keep	must	pick	sorry	though	we're
afternoon	cake	end	happened	kids	my	place	sort	thought	we've
again	came	enough	hard	know	name	play	start	three	what
ago	can	er	has	last	need	pretty	started	through	what's
ah	can't	even	have	left	never	probably	still	til	when
all	car	ever	haven't	like	new	put	straight	time	where
alright	Catholic	every	having	little	next	quite	street	times	which
always	cause	everyone	he	live	nice	ready	stuff	to	who
an	close	everything	her	long	night	really	sure	today	who's
and	cold	ey	here	look	no	remember	take	told	why
another	come	fair	he'll	looking	not	right	talk	tomorrow	will
any	coming	feel	he's	looks	nothing	road	talking	too	with
anything	could	find	him	lost	now	round	tea	try	won
anyway	couldn't	finished	his	lot	of	said	tell	trying	won't
are	couple	first	home	love	off	same	ten	twelve	work
around	crew	five	hour	lovely	oh	Saturday	than	twenty	working
as	day	for	hours	lunch	ok	say	thanks	two	would
ask	days	four	house	made	old	saying	that	um	wouldn't
at	dear	Friday	how	make	on	says	that's	up	wrong
away	did	from	hundred	many	once	school	the	us	yeah
back	didn't	f_cking	I	married	one	see	their	used	year
bad	different	get	if	me	ones	seen	them	very	years
be	do	gets	in	mean	only	seven	then	want	yep
beautiful	does	getting	into	might	or	she	there	wanted	yes
because	doesn't	give	is	mind	other	she'll	there's	wants	yesterday
been	doing	go	isn't	mine	our	she's	these	was	you
before	dollars	god	it	minutes	out	sh_t	they	wasn't	your
being	done	goes	its	mm	over	shoes	they're	way	you're
better	don't	going	it's	Monday	own	should	they've	we	you've
big	down	gone	I'd	money	o'clock	sit	thing	week	
bit	dunno	gonna	I'll	months	past	six	things	weekend	
bloody	eat	good	I'm	more	pay	so	think	weeks	

Composite List of 347 Core Words

Compared with Banajee Sampling: all words present

a	break	eight	got	I've	morning	people	some	thirty	well
about	but	either	gotta	job	much	person	someone	this	went
actually	buy	eleven	had	just	mum	phone	something	those	were
after	by	else	half	keep	must	pick	sorry	though	we're
afternoon	cake	end	happened	kids	my	place	sort	thought	we've
again	came	enough	hard	know	name	play	start	three	what
ago	can	er	has	last	need	pretty	started	through	what's
ah	can't	even	have	left	never	probably	still	til	when
all	car	ever	haven't	like	new	put	straight	time	where
alright	Catholic	every	having	little	next	quite	street	times	which
always	cause	everyone	he	live	nice	ready	stuff	to	who
an	close	everything	her	long	night	really	sure	today	who's
and	cold	ey	here	look	no	remember	take	told	why
another	come	fair	he'll	looking	not	right	talk	tomorrow	will
any	coming	feel	he's	looks	nothing	road	talking	too	with
anything	could	find	him	lost	now	round	tea	try	won
anyway	couldn't	finished	his	lot	of	said	tell	trying	won't
are	couple	first	home	love	off	same	ten	twelve	work
around	crew	five	hour	lovely	oh	Saturday	than	twenty	working
as	day	for	hours	lunch	ok	say	thanks	two	would
ask	days	four	house	made	old	saying	that	um	wouldn't
at	dear	Friday	how	make	on	says	that's	up	wrong
away	did	from	hundred	many	once	school	the	us	yeah
back	didn't	f_cking	I	married	one	see	their	used	year
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beautiful	does	getting	into	might	or	she	there	wanted	yes
because	doesn't	give	is	mind	other	she'll	there's	wants	yesterday
been	doing	go	isn't	mine	our	she's	these	was	you
before	dollars	god	it	minutes	out	sh_t	they	wasn't	your
being	done	goes	its	mm	over	shoes	they're	way	you're
better	don't	going	it's	Monday	own	should	they've	we	you've
big	down	gone	I'd	money	o'clock	sit	thing	week	
bit	dunno	gonna	I'll	months	past	six	things	weekend	
bloody	eat	good	I'm	more	pay	so	think	weeks	

Composite List of 347 Core Words

Compared with a's and s's from Marvin Sampling

a	break	eight	got	I've	morning	people	some	thirty	well
about	but	either	gotta	job	much	person	someone	this	went
actually	buy	eleven	had	just	mum	phone	something	those	were
after	by	else	half	keep	must	pick	sorry	though	we're
afternoon	cake	end	happened	kids	my	place	sort	thought	we've
again	came	enough	hard	know	name	play	start	three	what
ago	can	er	has	last	need	pretty	started	through	what's
ah	can't	even	have	left	never	probably	still	til	when
all	car	ever	haven't	like	new	put	straight	time	where
alright	Catholic	every	having	little	next	quite	street	times	which
always	cause	everyone	he	live	nice	ready	stuff	to	who
an	close	everything	her	long	night	really	sure	today	who's
and	cold	ey	here	look	no	remember	take	told	why
another	come	fair	he'll	looking	not	right	talk	tomorrow	will
any	coming	feel	he's	looks	nothing	road	talking	too	with
anything	could	find	him	lost	now	round	tea	try	won
anyway	couldn't	finished	his	lot	of	said	tell	trying	won't
are	couple	first	home	love	off	same	ten	twelve	work
around	crew	five	hour	lovely	oh	Saturday	than	twenty	working
as	day	for	hours	lunch	ok	say	thanks	two	would
ask	days	four	house	made	old	saying	that	um	wouldn't
at	dear	Friday	how	make	on	says	that's	up	wrong
away	did	from	hundred	many	once	school	the	us	yeah
back	didn't	f_cking	I	married	one	see	their	used	year
bad	different	get	if	me	ones	seen	them	very	years
be	do	gets	in	mean	only	seven	then	want	yep
beautiful	does	getting	into	might	or	she	there	wanted	yes
because	doesn't	give	is	mind	other	she'll	there's	wants	yesterday
been	doing	go	isn't	mine	our	she's	these	was	you
before	dollars	god	it	minutes	out	sh_t	they	wasn't	your
being	done	goes	its	mm	over	shoes	they're	way	you're
better	don't	going	it's	Monday	own	should	they've	we	you've
big	down	gone	I'd	money	o'clock	sit	thing	week	
bit	dunno	gonna	I'll	months	past	six	things	weekend	
bloody	eat	good	I'm	more	pay	so	think	weeks	

Vocabulary Use by Older Adults in Extended Conversations

- Stuart identified the vocabulary use patterns of 65-74-year-old and 75-85-year-old adults
- The 250 most common words (core vocabulary) were 78% of the total words

S.L.S. Stuart, D. R.
Beukelman, J. King,
AAC, Volume 13, No. 1,
March 1997



174 Most Frequently Occurring Words for Older Adults in Extended Conversations (72% Total Words)

a	can	guys	just	on	take	want was
about	can't	had	keep	one	tell	wasn't
all	care	half	kind	only	ten	way
alright	class	has	know	or	than	we
always	come	have	last	other	that	week
am	could	he	like	our	that's	well
an	day	her	little	over	the	went
and	didn't	here	long	people	them	were
another	does	he's	make	pretty	there	what
any	doing	hey	me	probably	these	what's
anything	done	him	mean	put	thing	when
are	down	his	more	really	things	where
around	even	home	much	right	think	who
as	everything	how	my	said	thirty	why
ask	five	huh	need	say	this	will
at	for	I	next	school	those	with
back	Friday	if	nice	see	though	work
be	from	I'll	night	she	thought	would
because	fun	I'm	no	should	three	year
been	getting	in	not	so	time	yes
before	go	is	now	some	to	yet
big	going	isn't	of	something	today	you
but	good	it	off	still	told	your
by	got	it's	oh	stuff	two	you're
call	guess	jet	okay	sure	up	



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am	could	he	like	our	that's	well
an	day	her	little	over	the	went
and	didn't	here	long	people	them	were
another	does	he's	make	pretty	there	what
any	doing	hey	me	probably	these	what's
anything	done	him	mean	put	thing	when
are	down	his	more	really	things	where
around	even	home	much	right	think	who
as	everything	how	my	said	thirty	why
ask	five	huh	need	say	this	will
at	for	I	next	school	those	with
back	Friday	if	nice	see	though	work
be	from	I'll	night	she	thought	would
because	fun	I'm	no	should	three	year
been	getting	in	not	so	time	yes
before	go	is	now	some	to	yet
big	going	isn't	of	something	today	you
but	good	it	off	still	told	your
by	got	it's	oh	stuff	two	you're
call	guess	jet	okay	sure	up	

Compared with a's and s's from
Marvin sampling

Stuart, Beukelman & King
AAC, March 1997



High Frequency Vocabulary of Older Adults: Places and Activities

- *Places*: participants' home, restaurants, apartment complexes, community rooms, stores, malls, hospitals, churches, cars, friends, and relatives' homes, senior citizen centers, and outdoors.
- *Activities*: talking on the telephone, eating, household projects, shopping, church study, playing games, reviewing hobbies, volunteer work, watching movies, transportation to events, and "visiting."



Vocabulary Usage by Adult Augmented Communicators

- 40 hours of interviews with 20 augmented communicators
- The 100 most frequently occurring words account for 62.3% of the total words used
- The top 250 words comprised 78% of the total words

Hill, 2001



100 Most Frequently Occurring Words for Fluent Adult SGD Users

I	people	had	go	school
the	but	words	got	which
to	know	are	can	who
and	with	I'm	liberator	out
a	they	not	more	pathfinder
it	what	well	need	their
is	am	how	some	unity
was	be	them	want	actually
that	don't	its	years	could
in	at	or	all	device
of	he	time	help	first
my	we	would	she	word
you	think	going	strategy	been
yes	one	this	then	better
for	because	use	as	different
have	so	will	get	really
like	when	there	if	things
me	no	work	speech	two
do	just	say	most	did
on	about	from	now	however



100 Most Frequently Used Words in Children's Literature Taken from Readers Theater/Language Arts

Rick Swallow

<http://www.surfcitydelux.com/readerstheater/>

1.the	26.or	51.out	76.its
2.of 10%	27.by	52.them	77.who
3.and	28.one	53.then	78.now
4.a	29.had	54.she	79.people
5.to	30.not	55.many	80.my
6.in	31.but	56.some	81.made
7.is	32.what	57.so	82.over
8.you 18%	33.all	58.these	83.did
9.that	34.were	59.would	84.down
10.it	35.when	60.other	85.only
11.he	36.we	61.into	86.way
12.for	37.there	62.has	87.find
13.was	38.can	63.more	88.use
14.on	39.an	64.her	89.may
15.are	40.your	65.two	90.water
16.as	41.which	66.like	91.long
17.with	42.their	67.him	92.little
18.his	43.said	68.see	93.very
19.they	44.if	69.time	94.after
20.at	45.do	70.could	95.words
21.be	46.will	71.no	96.called
22.this	47.each	72.make	97.just
23.from	48.about	73.than	98.where
24.I	49.how	74.first	99.most
25.have 33%	50.up	75.been	100.know 50%



Dolch Words Lists

List 1,2 and 3 know by the end of First grade., List 4 know by the end of Second grade, List 5 know by the end of Third grade

List 1

a
and
away big blue
can come
down find
for funny
go
help
here
in
is
it
jump little look
make me
my
not one play
red
run said
see
the
three to
two
up
we where
yellow you

List 2

an
are
at
ate
be black brown but
did
do
eat four get good
have he
into like new
no now on
our
out please pretty ran
ride
say
she
so soon that there
they this
too want was well
went what white who
win with

List 3

after again an
any
as
ask
by could every fly from give going
had has her him his how last know
let
live may of
old once open over put round some
stop take thank them then think walk
were when

List 4

always around
because been before
best both
buy
cat
cold does don't fast
first
five found gave goes
green
its
made
many
off
or
pull
read right
sing
sit
sleep
tell
their these those
upon
us
use
very wash which why
wish work would write
your

List 5

about better
bring carry cleat
cut
done draw drink
eight
fail
far
full
got
grow hold
hot
hurt
if
keep kind laugh
light
long much
myself never
only own pick
seven shall
show
six
small start
ten today
together try
warm

