Bonnie Levin-Asher, PhD

CURRICULUM VITAE · OCTOBER 2026

Personal Details

Name: Bonnie Levin-Asher

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Education

B.A. – **1992-1995**, Tel Aviv University, Department of Communication Disorders, Sackler Faculty of Medicine.

Teaching Certificat – **1996-1997**, Levinsky College of Education, Special Education Teaching Certificate.

M.A.– **2008-2010**, Tel Aviv University, Department of Communication Disorders, Sackler Faculty of Medicine.

Names of advisors: Prof. Ehud Yairi (University of Illinois), Dr. Ruth Ezrati.

Title of thesis: "Awareness of Changes in Speaking Rate: Development in Children aged 3-8."

Ph.D. – **2014-2020**, Tel Aviv University, Department of Communication Disorders, Sackler Faculty of Medicine.

Name of advisor: Prof. Liat Kishon-Rabin.

Title of thesis: "The development of multimodal communication at three and six months: The organization of the pre-linguistic behaviors during dyadic interaction."

Employment History (In reverse chronological order)

2025-present: Founder, Bonbon - Words Are Everything (Developing educational games and kits for language development).

2024-present: Post-Doctoral Fellow (Neurobiology of Social Communication), Rockefeller University, New York, NY. (Mentors: Prof. Constantina Theofanopoulou, Prof. Erich Jarvis).

2023-2024: Researcher, Department of Psychology, Hunter College (in collaboration with Rockefeller University), New York, NY.

2021-2023: Post-Doctoral Fellow, Department of Otolaryngology, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel. (Mentor: Prof. Roni Perez).

2020-present: Founder, Prosing for Gap-Closing (Social enterprise aiming to reduce social disparities).

2016-present: Teaching Staff, Department of Communication Disorders, Sackler Faculty of Medicine, Tel-Aviv University.

2006-2010: Supervisor of Speech and Language Pathologists, Ministry of Education.

2006-2008: Head of the Department of Speech and Language Pathology, Central District Child Development Institute, Maccabi Health Services.

2005-present: Speech and Language Pathologist (SLP), Private Clinic.

2003-2004: Hydrotherapist, Beit Issie Shapiro, Ra'anana, Israel.

2001-2002: Art Therapy for Teachers, Beit-Berl Academic College, Beit-Berl, Israel.

2000-2006: Speech and Language Pathologist (SLP), AKIM (The Israeli national organization for people with intellectual disabilities).

1995-2000: Speech and Language Pathologist (SLP), MICHA (Society for Deaf Children in Israel), Ministry of Education.

1995-1996: Speech and Language Pathologist (SLP), Neighborhood Rehabilitation Project, Hod Hasharon.

Professional Activities (In reverse chronological order)

(a) Positions in academic administration

2018-present: Research Coordinator, "The Weigh of Words" (Academic initiative to promote language/literacy and reduce linguistic gaps).

(b) Significant professional consulting

2023-2024: Consultant for Infant Language Development, Goshen Association.

(c) Ad-hoc reviewer for journals

Ad-hoc reviewer for international scientific journals (2015-present).

(d) Membership in professional/scientific societies

2022-present: Member, The international research group Daylong Audio Recordings of Children's Linguistic Environments (DARCLE).

2023-2024:Member, Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD).

2022-2024:Member, International Congress of Infant Studies (ICIS).

2019-2020:Member, International Association of Communication Sciences and Disorders (IALP).

2010-present:Member, The Israeli Speech Hearing and Language Association (ISHLA).

Educational Activities

(a) Courses taught

Clinical integration of speech and language development (Undergraduate level) – Department of Communication Disorders, Tel-Aviv University (Regular track and Ultra-Orthodox Women track).

Clinical assessment and intervention for language disorders (Undergraduate level, 2016-2023) – Department of Communication Disorders, Tel-Aviv University (Regular track and Ultra-Orthodox Women track).

(b) Research students

Secondary Supervision of Master Students:

1. Hadas Toda, Tel Aviv University (Graduation year: **2021**).

2. Yocheved Goldstein, Tel Aviv University (Graduation year: **2022-2026**).

3. Ada Blochman, Tel Aviv University (Current student, **2023-present**).

Mentoring of Undergraduate Students:

Hunter College, New York, NY (**2023-2026**).

Awards, Citations, Honors, Fellowships

(a) Honors, Citation Awards

2020: Artificial Intelligence & Data Science for Social Good Award, by TAD and Google (Awarded for AI-Based Model for Automatic Coding of Pre-Linguistic Behaviors in Infants).

2019: The 13th Research Day Award for Outstanding Clinical Summary, Sackler Faculty of Medicine, Tel Aviv University.

2016: Dean's Excellence in Teaching Award, Sackler Faculty of Medicine, Tel Aviv University.

(b) Fellowships and Internal Support

2019: The Israeli Speech Hearing and Language Association (ISHLA) Grant, awarded for the development of assessment, diagnosis and screening tests.

2018, 2019: The Israeli Speech Hearing and Language Association (ISHLA) Grant, awarded for PhD students in Communication Disorders.

2015, 2016, 2018:The Ehud & Janie Yairi Excellence Scholarship, awarded for outstanding PhD students, Tel Aviv University.

2014-2017:The Stanley Steyer Excellence Scholarship, awarded for outstanding students in the School of Health Professions, Sackler Faculty of Medicine, Tel Aviv University.

Scientific Publications (Listed in chronological order, from oldest to newest)

(a) Refereed chapters in collective volumes, Conference proceedings, etc.

1. Cohen, S., **Levin-Asher, B**., Levi, M., Hamburger, A., & Kishon-Rabin, L. . 2022. Tel Aviv University Helps Bridge Linguistic Gaps in School-Age Immigrant Children: Preliminary Outcomes of a Language Intervention Program (LIP). In: Developing Language and Literacy. Studies in honor of Dorit Diskin Ravid.

(b) Refereed articles in scientific journals

1. Grinberg, D.(S), **Levin-Asher, B**.(C), & Segal, O.(PI). 2022. The myth of women's advantage in using Child Directed Speech: Evidence of women vs. men in single-sex-parent families. Journal of Speech Language and Hearing Research, 65(11), 4205-4227.
2. **Levin-Asher, B**.(CA), Cohen, S., & Kishon-Rabin, L.(PI). 2023. The Influence of Low Socioeconomic Status on Infant Vocal Production. Dash Bareshet (Hebrew), 42, 38-61.
3. **Levin-Asher, B**. (CA), Segal, O.(C), & Kishon-Rabin, L.(PI). 2023. The validity of LENA technology for assessing the linguistic environment and interactions of infants learning Hebrew and Arabic. Behavior Research Methods, 55(3), 1480-1495.
4. Gvirsman, O.(S), **Levin-Asher, B**.(C), & Gordon, G.(PI). 2026. Comparison of Joint Media Engagement between Tablets and Social Robots. International Journal of Social Robotics, 18, Article 47.
5. **Levin-Asher, B**. & Kishon-Rabin, L. (2026). Early Organization of Simultaneous Multimodal Behaviors: Perception- and Production-Based Contingencies as a Scaffold for Language Development. *Journal of Speech Language and Hearing Research*. 69(10), 4562-5142. https://doi.org/10.1044/2026_JSLHR-24-00878

Lectures and Presentations at Meetings and Invited Seminars (Listed in chronological order, from oldest to newest)

(a) Invited lectures / Plenary / Keynote at conferences

1. **2018**: Infant Wordalize: The chicken-and-egg paradox in the shift from babbling to first words. Webinar invited by the Israeli Speech Hearing & Language Association (ISHLA).
2. **2019**: The development of multimodal communication at three and six months: the organization of the pre-linguistic behaviors during dyadic interaction. Language and Discourse Research Group at Tel Aviv University, Israel.
3. **2019**: Unlocking the wonders of technology: innovative approaches to predicting three-month-old infants' language development through multiple communication modalities. Research Day of the Department of Gynecology and Obstetrics at Meir Hospital, Daniel Hotel, Herzliya, Israel.
4. **2019**: The impact of socioeconomic status on early language development. Guest lecture in a Course on Language in Low Socioeconomic status for postgraduate students, Department of Communication Disorders, Tel Aviv University, Tel Aviv, Israel.
5. **2023**: Invited Talk (Topic Specified in Sessions), Israeli Speech Hearing and Language Association (ISHLA).

(b) Presentation of papers at conferences/meetings (oral or poster)

1. **2011**: Awareness of changes in speaking rate in children. The 47th annual conference of the Israeli Speech Hearing and Language Association, David Intercontinental Hotel, Tel Aviv, Israel (Oral)

2. **2011**: Awareness of Changes in Speaking Rate: Development in Children aged 3-8. The 9th Oxford Dysfluency Conference, St Catherine's College, Oxford, England (Oral).
3. **2015**: Data collection on early language development in Hebrew speaking infants using the LENA technology. 51st annual conference of the Israeli Speech Hearing and Language Association, Tel Aviv Convention Center, Tel Aviv, Israel (Oral).
4. **2016**: 'The Weigh of Words': communication and speech characteristics of parents and infants in high and low socioeconomic status. Israel Conference on Parenting, Haifa University, Haifa, Israel (Oral).
5. **2016**: Quantitative characterization of the linguistic input in the first year of life: a comparison between low to high socioeconomic status in two languages. 52nd annual conference of the Israeli Speech Hearing and Language Association, International Convention Center, Jerusalem, Israel (Oral).
6. **2019**: Multimodal communication at the age of three months predicts later language development. Poster presented at the research fair of the Faculty of Medicine at Tel Aviv University (Poster)
7. **2019**: The egg and chicken paradox in the transition from babbling to the first words. Webinar for Speech and language pathologists, the Israeli Speech Hearing and Language Association, Israel (Oral).
8. **2019**: The infant in the roles of speaker and hearer in the first six months of life: Characteristics of communication behaviors during interaction. 55th annual conference of the Israeli Speech Hearing and Language Association, Dan Panorama Hotel, Tel Aviv, Israel (Oral).
9. **2020**: Multimodal communication at three months of age predicts early language development. 56th annual conference of the Israeli Speech Hearing and Language Association, Dan Panorama Hotel, Tel Aviv, Israel (Oral).
10. **2021**: Online Language Intervention Program (e-LIP) for parents to reduce language gaps in low socioeconomic status. 57th annual conference of the Israeli Speech Hearing and Language Association, Online (Oral).
11. **2022**: Vocal learning in human infants: A new perspective on monologues. Poster presented at the research fair of the Faculty of Medicine at Tel Aviv University (Poster).
12. **2022**: Translational research in language intervention: Implementation and evaluation of an academic program to reduce language gaps among preschoolers from low-income families. Poster presented at the research fair of the Faculty of Medicine at Tel Aviv University (Poster).
13. **2022**: The effect of socioeconomic status on parent reports in developmental questionnaires for ages 6-18 months. 58th annual conference of the Israeli Speech Hearing and Language Association, Online (Oral)
14. **2023**: The I-See-F test for evaluating speech and language communication in toddlers, 59th annual conference of the Israeli Speech Hearing and Language Association, Dan Panorama Hotel, Tel Aviv, Israel (Oral).
15. **2026**: Lowering the age for identifying language development delay from two years to nine months by Tipat Halav nurses in Tel Aviv-Jaffa, using the BABEL tool and the "Shoklim Milim" team. 61st annual conference of the Israeli Speech Hearing and Language Association, Dan Panorama Hotel, Tel Aviv, Israel (Oral).
16. **2026**: Word Pronunciation Distance: A New Quantitative Measure for Monitoring Progress in the Treatment of Speech Sound Disorders. Conference of the Department of Communication Disorders: Treatment and Intervention Methods in Childhood Speech Sound Disorders, Ono Academic College, Kiryat Ono, Israel (Oral).

(c) Seminar presentations at universities and institutions

1. **2018**: Phonological productions in the first year of life. Continuing education program for speech therapists on developmental aspects of infancy, Department of Communication Disorders, Tel Aviv University, Tel Aviv, Israel.
2. **2020**: The effect of adult-infant interaction on brain development. Online lecture for parents, Bat Yam Municipality, Israel.
3. **2020**: The effect of adult-infant interaction on brain development. Online lecture for parents, Petah Tikva Municipality, Israel.
4. **2021**: Rules and failures in Communication. Online lecture for educational staff, REUT elementary school for children with autism, Petach Tikva, Israel.

5. **2021**: The effect of adult-infant interaction on brain development. Online lecture for parents, Holon Municipality, Israel.
6. **2022**: Strategies for language enrichment in early childhood. Online lecture for the educational psychological service staff, Yoav Regional Council, Israel.
7. **2022**: Language development in early childhood. Online lecture for the educational psychological service staff, Yoav Regional Council, Israel.

Present Academic Activities

Books and articles to be published:

(a) In preparation:

Levin-Asher, B., Lipsker, E., Shahar, S., & Kishon-Rabin, L. . AI Based Model for Automatic Coding of Pre-Linguistic Behaviors in Infants.

Cohen, S*., **Levin-Asher, B***., Yogev, O., Kishon-Rabin, L. . BABEL: Behavioral Assessment of Babies' Early Language: A Novel Screening Protocol for Early Detection of Communication and Language Delays in 9 and 12-month-old Infants. *Shared first authorship

Levin-Asher, B., Schwartz,S.(S), Jarvis, E.D., & Theofanopoulou, C. Vocal Learning in Infancy: Comparing Human and Robot Tutors in 12- to 14-Month-Olds

Goldstein-Rothner, Y., Bugannim, Y., **Levin-Asher, B**., & Kishon-Rabin, L. A Comparison of Intonation Patterns in Caregiver Speech and Infant Babbling at 3 and 6 Months

Additional Information

Podcasts:

Mazot Omeret? A series of podcasts on language development offering expert advice for parents and caregivers, as well as inspiring stories from speech therapy clinics (Available at: https://rss.com/podcasts/mazotomeret/).

Children's Books, Educational Kits and Literary Awards:

2026: Kesem's Word Treasure: Talking Emotions. A game and activity kit based on the book "A Girl's Magic" designed to promote emotional vocabulary. Bonbon - Words Are Everything.

2025: A Girl's Magic. Prosing for Gap Closing.

2023: Free-bird. Prosing for Gap Closing. First edition: 2023, Second edition: 2024. (Selected for the Book Parade by the Israel Ministry of Education).

2021: A Little Bag of Raisins. Prosing for Gap Closing.