

Bonnie Levin-Asher, Ph.D.

Speech and Language Pathologist

bonnyash@tauex.tau.ac.il | 054-4794507 | bonnylevasher.com

EDUCATION-EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

- 2025-present Founder of 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
- 2023-2024 Consultant for Infant Language Development, Goshen Association
- 2021-2023 Post-Doctoral Fellow, Department of Otolaryngology, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel. Mentor: Prof. Roni Perez
- 2020-present Founder of Prosing for Gap-Closing, a social enterprise that aims to reduce social disparities
- 2018-present Research coordinator of "The Weigh of Words", an academic initiative to promote language and literacy and to reduce linguistic gaps in society
- 2016-present Teaching staff, Department of Communication Disorders, Sackler Faculty of Medicine, Tel-Aviv University
- 2014-2020 PhD, Department of Communication Disorders, Sackler Faculty of Medicine, Tel Aviv University
Dissertation title: "The development of multimodal communication at three and six months: The organization of the pre-linguistic behaviors during dyadic interaction". Supervisor: Prof. Liat Kishon-Rabin
- 2008-2010 MA, Department of Communication Disorders, Sackler Faculty of Medicine, Tel Aviv University
Thesis title: "Awareness of Changes in Speaking Rate: Development in Children aged 3-8." Supervisors: Prof. Ehud Yairi (University of Illinois), Dr. Ruth Ezrati
- 2006-2010 Supervisor of Speech and Language Pathologists, Ministry of Education
- 2006-2008 Head of the Department of Speech and Language Pathology at Central District Child Development Institute, Maccabi Health Services
- 2005-present Speech and Language Pathologist (SLP), private clinic
- 2003-2004 Hydrotherapy, Beit Issie Shapiro, Ra'anana, Israel
- 2001-2002 Art therapy for teachers, Beit-Berl Academic College, Beit-Berl, Israel

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- 2000-2006 Speech and Language Pathologist (SLP) in AKIM - the Israeli national organization for people with intellectual disabilities
- 1996-1997 Special education teaching certificate, Levinsky College of education, Tel Aviv, Israel
- 1995-2000 Speech and Language Pathologist (SLP) in MICHА - Society for Deaf Children in Israel, Ministry of Education
- 1995-1996 Speech and Language Pathologist (SLP) in Neighborhood rehabilitation project in Hod Hasharon
- 1992-1995 BA, Department of Communication Disorders, Sackler Faculty of Medicine, Tel Aviv University

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Undergraduate courses, Department of Communication Disorders, Tel-Aviv University (regular track and Ultra-Orthodox Women track)

- 2016-present Clinical integration of speech and language development
- 2016-2023 Clinical assessment and intervention for language disorders

Supervision (secondary) of Master students

- 2023-present Ada Blochman, Tel Aviv University
- 2022-present Yocheved Goldstein, Tel Aviv University
- 2020-2021 Hadas Toda, Tel Aviv University

Mentoring of undergraduate students

- 2023-present Hunter College, New York, NY

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- 2023-2024 Member, Society for research in child development (SRCD)
- 2022-2024 Member, International Congress of Infant Studies (ICIS)
- 2022-present Member, The international research group Daylong Audio Recordings of Children's Linguistic Environments (DARCLE)
- 2019-2020 Member, International Association of Communication Sciences and Disorders (The International Association of Logopedics and Phoniatrics: IALP)
- 2010-present Member, The Israeli Speech Hearing and Language Association (ISHLA)

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AWARDS AND GRANTS

- 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
- 2019 The Israeli Speech Hearing and Language Association Grant, awarded for the development of assessment, diagnosis and screening tests in the field of communication disorders
- 2018, 2019 The Israeli Speech Hearing and Language Association Grant, awarded for PhD students in Communication Disorders
- 2016 Dean's Excellence in Teaching Award, Sackler Faculty of Medicine, Tel Aviv University
- 2015, 2016, 2018 The Ehud & Janie Yairi Excellence Scholarship, awarded for outstanding PhD students in Communication Disorders, 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

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Articles

Levin-Asher, B., Cohen, S., & Kishon-Rabin, L., (2023). The Influence of Low Socioeconomic Status on Infant Vocal Production. *Dash Bareshet* (Hebrew), 42, 38-61

Levin-Asher, B., Segal, O., & Kishon-Rabin, L., (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

Grinberg, D., **Levin-Asher, B.**, & Segal, O., (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

Other Publications

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*

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Levin-Asher, B., & Kishon-Rabin, L., (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 in 2022

Cohen, S., **Levin-Asher, B.**, & Kishon-Rabin, L., (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 in 2022

Levin-Asher, B., & Kishon-Rabin, L., (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 in 2019

Preprint/In Press/Under review/In preparation

Levin-Asher, B., & Kishon-Rabin, L., (Submitted). Early Organization of Simultaneous Multimodal Behaviors: Perception- and Production-Based Contingencies as a Scaffold for Language Development

Gvirsman, O., **Levin-Asher, B.**, & Gordon, G. (Submitted). Comparison of Joint Media Engagement between Tablets and Social Robots

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

Shira Cohen*, **Bonnie Levin-Asher***, Ori Yoge, Liat Kishon-Rabin., L., (In preparation). iScreen: A Novel Screening Tool for Early Detection of Communication and Language Delays in Infants

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Ad hoc reviewer for international journals since 2015

ORAL PRESENTATION AT CONFERENCES

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

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

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- 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
- 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
- 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
- 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
- 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
- 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
- 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
- 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
- 2011 Awareness of Changes in Speaking Rate: Development in Children aged 3-8. The 9th Oxford Dysfluency Conference, St Catherine's College, Oxford, England
- 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

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INVITED TALKS

- 2022 Language development in early childhood. Online lecture for the educational psychological service staff, Yoav Regional Council, Israel
- 2022 Strategies for language enrichment in early childhood. Online lecture for the educational psychological service staff, Yoav Regional Council, Israel
- 2021 The effect of adult-infant interaction on brain development. Online lecture for parents, Holon Municipality, Israel
- 2021 Rules and failures in Communication. Online lecture for educational staff, REUT elementary school for children with autism, Petach Tikva, Israel
- 2020 The effect of adult-infant interaction on brain development. Online lecture for parents, Petah Tikva Municipality, Israel
- 2020 The effect of adult-infant interaction on brain development. Online lecture for parents, Bat Yam Municipality, Israel
- 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
- 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
- 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
- 2018 Infant Wordalize: The chicken-and-egg paradox in the shift from babbling to first words. A webinar invited by the Israeli Speech Hearing & Language Association (ISHLA)
- 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

PODCASTS

- 2023 A series of podcasts on language development offering expert advice for parents and caregivers, as well as inspiring stories from speech therapy clinics:
<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