

# Introduction CHILDES

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# Observational studies in L1 research

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- ❑ Early diary studies (e.g. Stern and Stern 1930th)
- ❑ Audio recordings in the 1960<sup>th</sup>
  - Martin Braine 1963
  - Ursula Bellugi 1967
  - Lois Bloom 1970
  - Roger Brown 1973
- ❑ CHILDES (= Child Language Data Exchange System)
  - Brian MacWhinney
  - Cathrin Snow

The CHILDES system provides tools for studying conversational interactions. These tools include a database of transcripts, programs for computer analysis of transcripts, methods for linguistic coding, and systems for linking transcripts to digitized audio and video.

## **System**

[Ground rules](#)

[Membership list](#)

How to subscribe to [info-CHILDES](#)

[Overviews](#)

## **Links**

[Child Language sites](#)

The [TalkBank](#) Project

The [LIDES](#) Database

## **Teaching with CHILDES**

[Topics](#) in language acquisition.

[On-line tutorial](#) for learning CHAT and CLAN

[Tips](#) from teachers.

## **Procedures**

Procedures and tools for [CA analysis](#)

[Slicing and splicing](#) audio files with Praat.

Working with [digitized video](#) | [digitized audio](#)

## **Programs and Data**

[CLAN programs](#)

[CHILDES Database](#)

[XML Database](#)

[Contributing](#) new data

## **Manuals (in PDF)**

[CHAT transcription system manual](#)

[BTS sign transcription manual](#)

[CLAN program manual](#)

[CHILDES database manual](#)

## **Special Tools**

Language acquisition [bibliography](#)

[UniCode](#), [MOR](#), [POST](#), [CMULEX](#)

Parental frequency [count](#) and [documentation](#).

## **Contacts**

[Pittsburgh, USA](#) - [Brian MacWhinney](#)

[Antwerp, Belgium](#) - [Steven Gillis](#)

[Chukyo, Japan](#) - [Hidetosi Sirai](#)

<http://childes.psy.cmu.edu>

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CHILDES consists of three major components:

- The database
- CHAT: a system of notations and codings
- CLAN: a set of computer programs

# The database

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Indoeuropean: English, Danish, Dutch, French, German,  
Greek, Italian, Polish, Portuguese, Russian,  
Spanish, Swedish Ukrainian

Non-Indoeuropean: Cantonese, Hebrew, Hungarian,  
Japanese, Mambila, Mandarin, Tamil, Turkish

Special corpora: Children with Down syndrom, authism,  
Secific language impairment

# The database

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Most data is longitudinal, but there are also a few cross-sectional studies

<b>File</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>File</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>File</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>File</b>	<b>Age</b>
01	1;9.7	06	2;0.7	11	2;3.21	16	2;7.14
02	1;9.21	07	2;0.7	12	2;4.14	17	2;8.14
03	1;10.15	08	2;1.21	13	2;5.0	18	2;9.14
04	1;11.7	09	2;2.14	14	2;5.21	19	2;10.21
05	1;11.21	10	2;3.0	15	2;6.14	20	3;1.21

Some audio and video files.