

Homework Assignment #1
Due: October 11, 2018

Read the following article: Weisleder & Fernald (2013): **Talking to children matters: Early language experience strengthens processing and builds vocabulary**

Please write a short review of this article (2-3 pages double-spaced). Make sure to address the following points:

- 1) What are the two ways the authors describe that parental input could affect children's vocabulary development? In other words, what are the two possibilities the authors are trying to distinguish in this study?
- 2) Provide a summary of what the authors did and found. Be sure to include:
 - a) How did they measure parents' input? How did they measure children's vocabulary outcomes and processing efficiency?
 - b) What type of parental speech did the authors find had the biggest effect on children's later vocabulary?
 - c) What did the authors conclude about *how* language input affects children's later vocabulary? In particular, what do they mean when they say that "language experience promotes vocabulary development at least in part via its influence on processing efficiency"?
- 3) Based on our class discussions and the article, what are some reasons that child-directed speech might play such a big role in children's vocabulary development?

Please be sure to use your own words and not copy text directly from the article.