

Kanzi.

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Chimpanzee and language

Kanzi



Language

Although Kanzi learned to communicate using a keyboard with lexigrams, Kanzi also picked up some American Sign Language from watching videos of Koko the gorilla, who communicated using sign language to her keeper Penny Patterson.

Communication

- *Introduction:* Kanzi spontaneously started using the symbol system.
- *Methods:* learned not by being taught, but by being exposed to, and observing, a kind of language in use at a very early age.
- *Vocabulary:* Kanzi eventually developed a large symbol vocabulary (over 250 forms).

Communication

- By the age of eight, he was reported to be able, through the association of symbols with spoken words, to demonstrate understanding of spoken English at a level comparable to a two-and-a-half-year-old human child.
- There was also evidence that he was using a consistently distinct set of “gentle noises” as words to refer to things such as bananas, grapes and juice.
- He had also become capable of using his symbol system to ask to watch his favorite movies, Quest for Fire (about primitive humans) and Greystoke (about the Tarzan legend).