

100-Utterance Language Sample

Child's initials: M.R.

Gender: female

DOB: (confidential)

DOE: October 15, 2002

CA: 47 months

Context: “The Crayon Box” day-care center at Andrews University. The children in this room have just finished their afternoon snack. M.R. (her first name is Madeleine) is sitting with me at a small table at one end of the room. A Crayon Box employee is reading a story to a group of children at the other end of the room. In the middle of the room is a wooden “jungle gym,” and against one wall is a bookshelf. Madeleine has selected her favorite book, which she will be describing to me later.

Key to transcription:

Numbered, boldfaced utterances = child (Madeleine).

Unnumbered, non-bolded utterances = examiner D.R..

Words in brackets = description of nonverbal behavior, identification of objects.

Madeleine, how old are you?

1. Three-and-a-half.

Three-an-a-half?

2. Yeah.

All right! I see you have a book here. {A sturdy cardboard book, formed in the outline of a hammer.} Is this your favorite book?

{Madeleine nods her head}

Wow, what does is say? What does it look like?

3. A hammer.

A hammer! Sure enough! What do you do with a hammer?

{Madeleine demonstrates a pounding motion.}

Pound things? OK.

4. We, we put nails down with it.

You put nails down with it. That's right!

5. One time muh, my dad took me to a nn, a nail house.

Really?

6. There was lots of nails into the house, 'cause Daddy had to pick me up.

7. Nails are sharp!

Oh,...yeah! Yeah, you can poke your feet.

8. Yeah, that's why Dad picked me up

9. Dad can, Dad can go around them.

10. I'm not as good seeing as him.

So does, is he a builder? Does he build houses?

11. No.

No? {pause} My dad helped his dad build some houses, when he was about my age. So what's...what's inside your book?

{Madeleine opens it to the first page.}

Oh, wow!

12. They're gonna build a doggie's house.

All right! What's the doggie's name?

13. I don't know.

Oh, OK. So here he's reading the instructions. So do you think the doggie is happy?

{Madeleine nods her head.} So what is it on the next page?

14. A sister with brother.

Sister with brother?

15. Mm-hm.

Yeah! {Then, pointing to a third figure on the page}: Is that the mommy, do you think?

16. Mm-hm, that IS the mommy.

OK. So they're... It says, "We'll need some wood, some nails..." I guess they're putting everything in a box, to carry outside.

17. And hammers!

Oh, yes.

18. He gets a little hammer, and he gets, she gets her big hammer, right?

Right! That's nice! One more page, it looks like. {Madeleine turns the page.} They WHACK here, and KNOCK there... Ahh, now they're hammering it together! Is that the end?

19. That's the end!

Wow, looks like a nice doghouse. Just right for the doggie.

20. Mm-hm.

Do you have any pets? {pause} at your house?

21. Spike and Shadow and Falisha.

Spike and Shadow and Falisha?

22. That's it.

So are they... what kind of animals are they?

23. A cat and dog.

24. Two, two dogs, and one cat.

So...is one of them yours? Are all of them yours?

25. All of them

All of them! So, what do you like to do with Spike and...Shadow and Falisha?

26. I like, Falisha likes to be pet.

27. Spike and Shadow like to lick us.

28. They let, we give 'em their food.

29. Last night we had to gi, give them their food this morning, because they had some food from, from this mor, the other day from this morning.

Oh..., OK. So, which one is Falisha? Is that the cat?

30. **Yeah, that one's, that's the inside cat.**
31. **She doesn't like to get outside.**
32. **She gets mad if she's in the water.**

Really!

33. **Mm-hm.**

Yeah, a lot of cats don't like water, that's true. How 'bout Spike and Shadow—do they like water?

34. **Yeah, they like water to drink.**

Drink? Do they like to get a bath? Have you ever given them a bath?

35. **They don't like to get "batht."**

Oh... Do you do it out on the yard with a hose?

36. **Yeah, and we have to use their...their...their soap too.**

37. **They don't like to get wa—They like to shake all over us.**

They like to do what?

38. **They like to shake the water all over us.**

Oh, "shake," yeah! That's right! They shake it off. Oh, man, that's a mess! My sister has a dog, and she sometimes takes him into the shower in our house, and gives him a shower that way, but he does NOT like to get wet! He tries to stay away from the water. He'll go to the corner of the shower, and he just doesn't like it at all, even though it's nice and warm you know...I thought he would have fun! Nope, he doesn't like it.

39. **I...I have fun taking a shower.**

40. **My mom lets me, how I like 'em.**

41. **My mom **XXLY** lets me know how...I let her know how I like to do it.**

Good! ...So what did you do here this morning in your school?

42. **I'm almost four.**

You're almost four?

43. **Uh-huh.**

What did you do this morning with the other kids, and with your teacher?

44. I ate breakfast.

You had breakfast here?

45. Uh-huh.

46. Pancakes and cantaloupe.

Oh, wow! Was that in this room? {She nods her head.} Was it good?

47. Yeah.

What...what's your...Did you have lunch here?

48. Uhhh...yeah.

What did you have for lunch?

49. {trying to think...} I don't know.

Don't know?...What's your favorite food.

50. Mmmm...{thinking} grilled cheese sandwich.

Grilled cheese sandwich! Mmmm, sounds good.

51. I can't lick my lips much because it'll hurt, right?

Oh really?

52. That's why I got chapstick in my cubby.

Oh, yeah, that's good. Yeah I use chapstick every day. So... and then you had a snack just a few minutes ago, didn't you?

53. Mm-hm!

So what did you have for your snack?

54. XX crackers! {The XX stands for /m/+glottal stop}

Crackers!

55. Plain crackers and...plain crackers and peanut-butter crackers.

Which ones do you like better?

56. Plain crackers.

Plain ones.

57. Mm-hm.

Did you have anything to drink?

58. Orange juice.

Orange juice! All right!

59. Orange juice with pulp.

With pulp. Do you like it with pulp?

{Madeleine shakes her head.}

No?

60. I like it with...I...I...

Just the juice?

61. Yeah, I just like it without the pulp.

Oh, OK. So... what, what do you do here at your school?

62. {Madeleine sighs.} I play.

Play? That sounds like fun... What kind of things do you play?

63. I play kitty.

You play kitty?

64. Mm-hm, every morning when Al--, when Maya comes here.

Oh...

65. XX XX nots fun with-, without Maya here.

It's not as much fun without her. Is she your friend?

66. Yeah.

Oh... How old is she?

67. Three-an-uh-half.

Three an a half—just like you!

68. When I'm four, she's still gonna be three.

Ah...

69. I'm gonna be in a big girls...I'm gonna be in a big kid's class.

When you turn four, do they put...do you go to a different room then?

70. Pre-K.

Oh.

71. I'm only gonna be here when I'm four, for a couple minutes, for a couple whiles.

A couple whiles?

72. For a couple days.

A couple days?

73. Yeah, and then I have to go to my room.

Ah...

74. 'Cause, 'cause when we're four we have to go to Pre-K.

So do you think that's gonna be fun?

75. Uh, my mom and dad said I can't stay here, only when it's my birthday.

76. That's only one day I have to stay here, [every?] XX when I'm four.

77. Then I have to go to my classroom.

Hm.

78. At...my...everybody who is...who's on my list is gonna come to my birthday party!!!! {very excited tone of voice}

Oh! Fun!!!

79. Only the ones that Mama wrote down.

The ones that she wrote down. So is your party gonna be here?

80. {excited} **SIX PEOPLE** is gonna come to my party!!!!

Six people!! Wow!!

81. Thas a **LOT!!!**

That's gonna be fun!! Is that gonna be at your house, or is that gonna be here?

82. Uhhh, that's gonna be...my party...my birthday...my party...my birthday is **before** my...**before** my party...

Ah hah. {I was affirming her attempt to communicate, while not exactly sure about the meaning.} so my party...so my part--...my birthday is **BEFORE** my...my part--...my bir--...my party.

83. So that means...that...my party is the...**FIRST**.

Your party's first.

84. Uh-huh, that's when all my **friends** come...

Ah...

an my...an my **birthday** is when I'm...when I'm...thas Mommy, and... an Madeleine and Daddy.

85. That's, that's, that's, that's wuh...that's what it is in my birthday.

Mmm... So is Maya, is she your best friend?

86. Yeah.

87. So is Aleeya.

Aleeya? Hmm...

88. Aleeya, Aleeya just went home.

She just went home.

89. Mm-hm.

I'm trying to guess how to spell that...uh LEE uh...

Umm, do you have any brothers or sisters?

90. Uh, I'm goin' to.

91. **I only have one right now.**
You have one?
92. **Uh-huh, his name is Tyler.**
Tyler!
93. **An' I'm having another brother too.**
Wow, exciting! So how old is Tyler?
94. **I don't know.**
Is he younger than you?
95. **M[?]-mmm.** {negative, pronounced /m/+glottal stop, followed by prolonged /m/}
He's older?
96. **I guess so, I don't, but I don't know how old.**
Is he bigger than you, or smaller?
97. **I haven't, I haven't figured it out, because I don't know.**
98. **I've got a picture of him, but I don't know how I've big, XXXX it was only when I was a baby.**
Ahh, OK. Wow, so pretty soon you're gonna have another brother!
99. **Yeah, but...but XX...m...Tyler went back with his mom.**
OK...Well...let's see...Did you play outside today?
100. **Oh... {pause} no, we...we couldn't.**
101. **We, we went for a walk.**
You went for a walk?
102. **Mh-hm.** {affirmative}
Where did you go?
103. **We, we found hydrants.**

104. See what teacher draw up right there? {pointing to chalkboard}

105. Let me point XX XX... {running to chalkboard}

Oh, yes!

106. This one. {pointing to drawing of fire hydrant}

Uh-huh! All right.

107. That...that's where...that's where extra for...that's where the...

That's...that's for extra water in case there's a fire, right?

{Madeleine nods her head.}

Yeah, that's good. So...you went for a walk. Did you play out in the...in the playground today?

{She shakes her head "no."}

Hmm... Does, does Teacher Shirley read stories every day?

108. M[?]-m[?] {negative, /m/+glottal stop, spoken twice}

No? Not every day? {pause} Do you like the stories?

109. Mm-hm. {affirmative}

Hmm...

{The conversation continues, but I will stop the transcription here.}