

About Dunstan Baby.

1. “How was Dunstan Baby Language discovered?”

Dunstan Baby Language was born from Priscilla Dunstan’s gift for sound and her intuition as a mother. 10 years of research including independent studies in three countries have shown it to be a universal language of newborn babies. Priscilla’s breakthrough was shared with the world on The Oprah Winfrey Show in November 2006.

2. “How did Oprah find out about Dunstan Baby Language?”

Research with over 200 mothers in Chicago, Illinois conducted by independent research company The Leading Edge came to the attention of the producers of The Oprah Winfrey Show. They contacted our public relations agency in Australia and invited Priscilla to come to Chicago to be involved in the show. It was a privilege to be able to share the Dunstan discovery with parents on Oprah. The Oprah Winfrey Show featured all five words, allowing parents everywhere to listen for themselves and understand what their baby was saying.

3. “Does Priscilla have any formal qualifications in infant care?”

No. Priscilla is a trained musician and opera singer. Her discovery was born of her unique gift for sound and her experience as a mother. You could say she was the first to get accredited in Baby Language!

4. “Where is Priscilla now?”

Priscilla’s interest has always been interacting with parents and their babies, which she continues to do. Priscilla is also exploring some new concepts, potentially for books and television. As an organization, we are focused on bringing Priscilla’s breakthrough Baby Language to parents and professionals everywhere.

5. “How conclusive are the research results?”

Our research studies in Australia and the US show a significant intervention effect from the Dunstan System. The parents who used Dunstan Baby Language reported a significant reduction in parenting stress and a significant increase in self-esteem versus those parents who did not use the System. These results give us confidence to pursue new research partnerships with professionals and institutions. The focus for our next generation of research will be to explore the vast potential of the Dunstan System for improving father involvement, reducing the conditions that escalate postpartum depression and as an intervention for families at risk (e.g., low income, teen mothers, abuse situations etc). Our System has been validated by practical, in-field research and supported by unbiased testimonials from thousands of users.

6. “Has any academic research been published; i.e. in medical journals etc.,?”

To date, we are aware of numerous research studies underway which are exploring the scientific basis of the System. We are currently aware of that one academic study has been published to date and was conducted in the Philippines in 2007. We welcome the opportunity to work with professionals and institutions to broaden the knowledge base through scientific studies.

7. “I have read that US academics were involved with the Dunstan System. Is this correct?”

In 2004, Dunstan Baby met with Professors Barry Lester and Linda LaGasse from Brown University, two of the world’s foremost experts in infant crying, to introduce them to Priscilla’s breakthrough baby language theory. Professors Lester and LaGasse then came out to Australia to review the body of research that Priscilla had accumulated and participated in observation of 22 mothers and babies using the Dunstan System. Their inputs guided Priscilla’s thinking and helped shape the methodology for further research that would be conducted in 2006 and 2007. No formal study was carried out by Brown University. We have been privileged to receive the input of Dr. Maureen O’Brien, child psychologist, published author and former director of the Brazelton Touchpoints Center. In December 2007, Dr. O’Brien co-presented a session on Dunstan Baby Language at the Zero-to-Three National Training Institute in Orlando, Florida .

8. “How do you answer critics who say that Dunstan Baby Language is not a real “language”?”

While some linguists feel that the use of the word ‘language’ could be debated, the actual efficacy of the Dunstan System has not been challenged - that it has profound benefits for parents and professional caregivers. The word “language”, although part of our product name, might be confusing for some people. The “words” as we call them, are innate and involuntary. Sometimes using the word “language” makes people think that the sounds are taught to baby, like baby sign, but this is incorrect. The sounds are produced naturally based on reflex responses by the baby’s body. The use of the term ‘language’ is a useful product descriptor. It is just a short cut for parents to understand that it is about communication and understanding what their baby is saying.

9. “Will there be more sounds?”

It is our vision that mothers and fathers all over the world may benefit from understanding their newborn’s cries. Hence, our immediate focus is to build awareness and usage of our current program. Priscilla has identified further words and we hope to launch our next programs for infants beyond 3 months in the coming years.

Other questions?

We will update the FAQs regularly so please email us with any questions you may have accreditation.usa@dunstanbaby.com