SOUND NOTES

GIVEN:

1. swimming in a sea of sound
2. cracking the language code, based on the sounds
3. "recognizing" the mother language through its prototypical sounds, anchor words/names, word boundaries and legal sound combinations
4. experiments yield knowledge about the progress in language learning
5. babies don't learn words in the sense that adults do
6. experiments divided into familiarization and test phases; outcomes
7. learning by drawing onto statistical evidence of sounds in the language encountered (swimming in a sea of sound)
8. brain shaping, neural commitment and cortex mapping

**motor-sensory and cognitive aspects of sound production and perception**

babies' language acquisition is about learning from the sounds in their environment with the goal to identify and store patterns, based on which the mind derives RULES of sound patterning into words and matching patterns to meanings

despite cognitively far behind adults, the babies manage learning while "swimming in the sea of sounds" because they use particular learning strategies

what do they master before they start to speak? (see Sed.)

head-turning tests with 4 to 18-month old babies to find out what makes them pay attention and how they use those moments of attention to grasp upon words

babies encounter single words out of context only 10% of the time but use them as anchors as long as these words appear with some regularity („Is this a recuring word? if yes, I better pay attention“, the baby's mind wonders)

once the anchor words are established, the babies can shift attention to what precedes and follows them - to the word boundaries

gaining a gradual familiarity with words and establishing sound patterns leads minds to generalize and form rules = unconscious learning by extracting and storing patterns

babies are guided cognitively to depend on statistical regularity and transitional probability

*web activities*: sound combinations

what does it imply that, babies are guided cognitively to depend on statistical regularity and transitional probability?