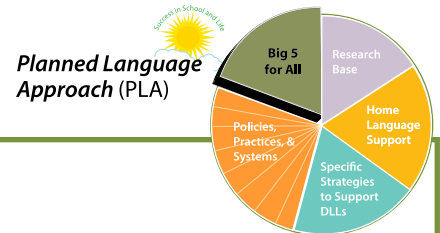


The Big 5: Why Are They a Big Deal?



Imagine there are 25 children in a kindergarten classroom. All of the children have been developing language since before they were born. However, some children are well prepared for the significant challenge of learning to read, whereas others are not.

Several decades of research show that what really matters is how skilled children are in each of the Big 5.

- ▶ For example, children who enter kindergarten with large vocabularies are much less likely to have reading difficulties. Those with smaller vocabularies are more likely to struggle to learn to read.
- ▶ The more children know about each of the Big 5, the more likely they are to be strong and enthusiastic readers and to succeed in school!



Long-Term Academic Success

Proficient Reading

The Big 5

- ▶ Alphabet Knowledge and Early Writing
- ▶ Background Knowledge
- ▶ Book Knowledge and Print Concepts
- ▶ Oral Language and Vocabulary
- ▶ Phonological Awareness