Welcome!

While you wait for Teacher Time to begin, please:
• Introduce yourself in the chat box, and
• Let us know: Where are you from, and what is your role?

"Communication is fundamental to the human experience, and language and literacy are essential to children’s learning."

"Language and literacy skills can be developed in any language, and for the most, they developed first in the child’s home language."

Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework: Ages Birth to Five

TEACHER TIME:
Language & Literacy for Preschoolers
January 19, 2018
Hosts: Judi Stevenson-Garcia & Treshawn Anderson
Guest Experts: Carrie Germeroth & Linda Espinosa
Chat Room Facilitator: Jan Greenburg

Adobe Connect Features
Chat Room Facilitator: Jan Greenburg
• Download supporting documents
• Raise your hand!
• Video note
• Complete evaluation
Preschoolers:
• Are sophisticated language users who harness language to take in new and complex information and organize their world;
• Add mathematical or scientific terms such as semicircle or T-Rex to their vocabulary;
• Begin to understand word categories, (e.g., hammers and screwdrivers are tools); and
• Begin to understand relationships among words such as the opposite of up is down.
Phonological Awareness

• Preschoolers are beginning to grasp how written language is structured into sounds and symbols.
• They play rhyming games and learn the names of letters and associated sounds.

Language & Literacy Experts

Carrie Germeroth
Linda Espinosa

Effective Practices: Vocabulary

• Make interactions warm and personal.
• Introduce words that describe objects, actions, and attributes.
• Use multi-syllable and sophisticated words repeatedly so children can master them.
• Introduce new words before reading a book or telling a story.
• Notice and respond when a child initiates a conversation.
• Intentionally teach words as they come up in context.
Effective Practices: Vocabulary

- Help children learn words used to express feelings and desires (ties in with S/E development).
- Use the language(s) you know best when communicating with children.
- Connect to home – learn important words and how to pronounce them correctly in child’s home language if you don’t speak it.

Effective Practices: Phonological Awareness

- Watch/listen for children’s spontaneous play with sounds of language. Respond by encouraging and extending it.
- Play word-combining games to make compound words like raincoat and sun-shine.
- Use photos or pictures for visual cues and to make the games hands-on for children.
- Clap the syllables in a child’s name to identify them during transition activities.
- For older preschoolers, play guessing games in which children add sounds together (/c/ + /up/ = cup) or subtract beginning sounds to make a new word (rice - /r/ = ice).

Supporting Children who are Dual Language Learners

- Use the language(s) you know best when communicating with children.
- Share songs, rhymes, chants, stories in their home languages.
- Learn about ways children’s families use language in their homes and incorporate ideas in your setting.
- Learn about phonological differences between English and children’s home languages.
- Include picture books in children’s home language(s) in the environment.
- Intentionally pair DLLs who have different levels of English language skills to work on puzzles, play literacy or math games, or even cooperate on computer games.
Planned Language Approach

https://eca.fns.gov/culture-language/article/planned-language-approach

Approaches to Learning

- A safe environment and nurturing, responsive daily interactions help children approach learning in a positive way.
- When you're creative, children learn to be creative – and use language in creative ways.
- Knowing what families value, in terms of approaches to learning, will help you understand the children you work with so you can better meet their needs.

Ongoing Assessment

- Focused observation and intentional engagement
- Two-way communication
- Families are the best source of information
Ongoing Assessment

- Use ongoing assessment as a base from which to plan interactions and learning experiences.
- Documentation is key – what do you notice about children that is new or important to help you understand how they're developing?
- Use culturally and linguistically responsive assessment practices.
- Use ongoing assessment as a way to engage with families about their children’s development.

Resources:
- MyPeers – New CLRP community!
- T4T
- ELOF2GO

Remember to complete the evaluation – we value your feedback!