

Why is language development important in early childhood classrooms?

- Learning language is a thinking process.
 - Children work at figuring out the rules of language.
 - Appreciating how children are hypothesizing about language motivates them to keep learning language.

- Language development is the first step towards literacy.
 - Language development makes reading and writing possible.
 - Children need vocabulary to comprehend text.
 - Knowing the patterns and sequences of language supports comprehension.

How Children Acquire Language

- For humans, language learning is innate.
- Environment and interactions have a significant impact on children's language development.
- Children learn by “creating” language.
- Children learn language through play.

Appreciating Language Differences

- Encourage children's language use and development in their native language.
- Be sensitive to language differences.
 - Acceptance
 - Integrated Program
 - Sensory Learning

Practicing Vocabulary

Step 1: Write a vignette (with your group).

- Write a **2 – 3 sentence vignette** describing what a child is doing (and possibly saying) at the center or during the routine.
- Record it on an index card.

Step 2: Exchange vignettes (with your group).

- Pass your vignette to another group.
- Read aloud the vignette you receive.
- Review the vocabulary chart that relates to the vignette.

Step 3: Role play a conversation between teacher and child (with a partner).

- With a partner, take turns role playing a conversation based on your vignette (one person is teacher, the other child).
- Teacher: use some vocabulary words in the conversation.
- Switch roles.

Book Response Conversations

1. What are some parts of the book you recall?
2. Did the book remind you of any other childhood collecting experiences you had? What were they?
3. What were some appealing words used in the story?
4. What are some ways you might use this book to spark conversations among children?
5. Prepare to share one idea from #4.

Sorting Discussion

All:

- List the sorting categories you used.
- What vocabulary did you use in your discussion?
- What words used in discussion came from the book?

Teacher:

- What else did you observe?
- What was it like for you to use vocabulary and invite discussion?

All:

- What feedback can the “players” offer the teacher?