

Leadership Lessons Early Literacy The Three Keys to Success



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Weekday Ministries Conference
August 3, 2015

Learning from Others

- What does the research tell us about how early literacy develops?
- In Texas, what resources do we have?
- What can we do every day to support our youngest as they start to develop the literacy skills they will need to become successful in school and life?



The Research

- There are three very important skill areas that young children need to develop.
 - Vocabulary and language
 - Letter Knowledge
 - Phonological Awareness



The Resources

- The Early Learning Guidelines
- The Texas Prekindergarten Guidelines
- NAEYC Developmentally Appropriate Manual
- Various curriculum and resources
- Specialists, Coaches, Early Childhood Experts



Our Roles

- Be knowledgeable about how children learn.
- Provide a safe and thoughtful environment.
- Prepare meaningful and appropriate lessons.
- Be responsive to the children in our care.
- Build strong partnerships with families.
- Learn about and use community resources.



Language Development

- How does language develop?
 - Receptive
 - Expressive
- What is your role?
 - Be a model
 - Participate in meaningful conversations
- Why is language and vocabulary development so important?



Vocabulary Growth

- Consider:
 - The scores in Texas are very low.
 - Children need daily opportunities to hear and practice new words.
 - We must plan specific vocabulary words to introduce, then provide time and opportunities for children to use the words frequently.
 - It helps to play “games” and do fun activities that incorporate the new vocabulary words.



Language Development in the Classroom

- Opportunities:
 - Circle time
 - Small group
 - Center time
 - Meals
 - Outside
 - Transitions



Phonological Awareness

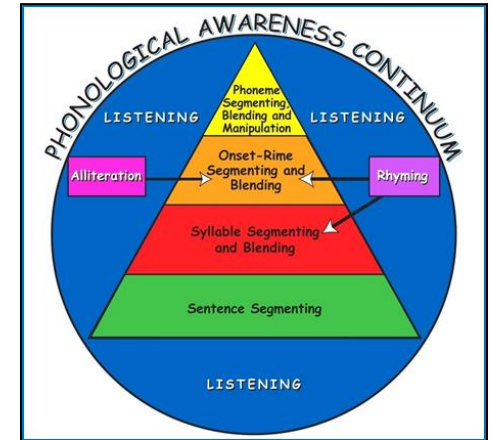
What is It?

- Phonological awareness is a skill that helps children to hear and understand sounds.
- For a child to learn to read, they must be able to distinguish different sounds.
- The Prekindergarten Guidelines tell us that children entering kindergarten should be able to recognize and produce the initial sounds of 20 letters.



The Phonological Awareness Sequence of Skills

- Sequence of skills:
 - Listening
 - Sentence segmenting
 - Syllable segmenting and blending
 - Onset-Rime segmenting and blending
 - Alliteration
 - Rhyming
 - Phoneme segmenting, blending and manipulation



Phonological Awareness In the Classroom

- You can plan to teach Phonological Awareness in large and small groups using:
 - Books
 - Finger plays
 - Songs and Nursery Rhymes
 - Large and small group lessons
 - Quick transition activities



Alphabet Knowledge

- Many children have some knowledge of letters before they come to school.
- Some have limited experiences with letters.
- The Prekindergarten Guidelines tell us that children going into kindergarten need to know 20 upper case and 20 lower case letters.



How Do We Teach Letters?

- Children learn best when the learning environment is relaxed and playful.
- When we ask children to “play a game” they eagerly participate.
- We can help our pre-school children develop great letter knowledge through the games.



Alphabet Knowledge Tips

- Help children learn the first letter in own and friend's names.
- Play letter games in large and small groups.
- Read and create alphabet books.
- Model writing activities & encourage writing.
- Use the letter wall every day both large group, and with peers during center time.



Integration not Isolation

- In the prekindergarten classrooms, we can support literacy learning all day very intentionally.
 - As we read, we can build vocabulary and help children develop comprehension skills or learn names of letters.
 - As we sing songs, we may be teaching phonological awareness skills and introducing new vocabulary.
 - As we spend time with our young children, we need to be aware and passionate about giving them strong literacy foundations.