Oral Language Development and Creative Resources for Early Childhood Classrooms

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More information about courses can be found on the Early Care and Education website: http://ecep.uark.edu/
ORAL LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT AND CREATIVE RESOURCES FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD CLASSROOMS

What will we learn?
Inter-subjectivity
Theory of Mind
Executive Function
Central Coherence
Language Games and Books

Inter-subjectivity
- Shared Affect
- Joint Attention
- Imitation

Teacher’s Role in Promoting Language
- Serve as a good language model—use complete sentences and correct grammar
- Talk frequently—use commenting and open-ended questions
- Listen carefully
- Introduce new words
- Read aloud to small groups children
- Play language games

Theory of Mind
The ability to reflect on one’s thoughts and feelings and the ability to tune into the feelings and expectations of others. First order Theory of Mind—I know other people have thoughts. Second order Theory of Mind—I know that other people think about what other people think about their thoughts.

Promoting Oral Language in the Classroom Environment
- Word Walls Connected to Books and Activities
- Speaking and Listening Centers
- Tell and Write Stories
- Sing Songs and Promote Art
- Interacting with Teachers and Peers
- Create Conversation Buddies
- Introduce Word Games and Listening Exercises
Executive Functions
Helps us plan and execute a goal, control impulses, remain flexible, retain information, stay focused, monitor performance, control emotions, start tasks, and organize materials.

Language Rich Classrooms
- Create plans for play and other activities
- Break long tasks into chunks
- Use individual visual calendars—review several times per day—consistent schedule
- Use timers and other visual aids
- Plan and structure transition time and shifts in activities

Central Coherence
Definition: Limited ability to understand context or to see “the big picture”. Weak Central Coherence leads to difficulties with:
- Social Interactions
- Communication
- Imagination

Building Central Coherence
Use strength based strategies identified in the child. If the child has difficulty with social interactions but loves art then let them share their art with a friend.

Test
Use the following abbreviations for answering the items below: 1TOM for 1 Order Theory of Mind; 2TOM – 2 Order Theory of Mind; EF – Executive Function; and, CC – Central Coherence

1. _____ Child has difficulty with transitions.

2. _____ Child knows that Suzie has thoughts which are different than her own.

3. _____ Child has difficulty with multiple meaning words and social interactions.

4. _____ Child knows that what he/she does or doesn’t do impacts whether people want to be around him/her.

5. _____ Child has difficulty integrating knowledge into greater whole but has exceptional skill at seeing details.
Language Games

Name Bingo
Print the first and last name of each child in large letters on a sentence strip. Give children counters to cover each letter when it is called out. Print the alphabet on index cards. Mix the cards up and turn them face down. Draw a letter and call it out. Children cover that letter if it is in their name. If the same letter appears more than once, children cover them all when the letter is called out. Have children call out “Bingo,” or “Name-o” when they cover all the letters in their name. Using only the first name is an option for this game. You may also want to play the game with children’s phone numbers.

Alligator
Materials:
• Can with a smooth edge (an oatmeal box works well)
• Words written on rectangles that fit inside the can (you might write letters of the alphabet on the cards rather than words)
• Alligator shape on four cards
Directions:
Mix up all the cards. Put them inside the can where the words or letters and alligators are not visible. Pass the can around. Each child takes a turn pulling out a card and reading the word or letter. If the child pulls out an alligator card, he yells, “alligator” and everyone jumps up and runs in place for 10 seconds. Play game until all cards have been pulled. You could also use this game for shapes, colors, and numbers.

Word Hunt
Choose five sight words you want children to learn. Write each of the words on index cards or word strips (large enough to be read easily). Tape four of the cards for each word around the room where they can be seen by the children. Meet with the children and read a word card to them. Show them the card. Let children look around the room and try to find that particular word. Give volunteers a pointer and let them go to a word card, point to it, and read it. This activity would work well for letter cards too.

Reference for the games listed above; Wonderful Rooms Where Children Can Bloom by Jean R. Feldman.

Flashlight Alphabet
Put a letter shape on a firm, clear plastic (compact disk case works well). In a darkened room, shine a flashlight underneath the letter and it will display on the ceiling, wall or floor. This would be a good activity to leave up during nap time.

There are many kinds of quiet:
Quiet can be delicate.
Quiet can be thundering!
Quiet can be sweet, and cozy, and can most definitely help you fall asleep.
With kid-centric descriptions and irresistible artwork, this gentle picture book explores all the different quiets that can fill a child’s days from morning to night.

"Jack was running like mad in the dark woods with a hen under his arm. Previously, he had stolen the hen and climbed down a beanstalk." But do you know what Jack was doing before he climbed down the beanstalk? Or what Jack and Jill were arguing about before they went up the hill? And what happened before that? Every story, every person, and everything started somewhere, and now the inventive and whimsical Allan Ahlberg explores what all your favorite storybook characters were up to previously.

A life lesson that all parents want their children to learn: It’s OK to make a mistake. In fact, hooray for mistakes! A mistake is an adventure in creativity, a portal of discovery. A spill doesn’t ruin a drawing—not when it becomes the shape of a goofy animal. And an accidental tear in your paper? Don’t be upset about it when you can turn it into the roaring mouth of an alligator.

This fabulous, life-sized introduction to what animals eat, how they eat it, and how much they eat in a single bite is full of compelling facts and images. From the tiny sand-grain-sized bite of earth that the earthworm takes to the double-gatefold spread of a sperm whale sucking a whole giant squid down in just one bite, this book and the eleven animals in it are EXACTLY as large as life!
Together we'll do it- We'll help save the earth...Come now, rhyme with me, let’s turn our hearts loose, and fly 'round the world With Green Mother Goose. Mother Goose has gone green-and this playful picture book invites kids to join the fun. In these delightful “recycled” rhymes, Old Mother Hubbard shops with cloth grocery bags; Old King Coal is a better old soul, working to keep our skies smoke-free; and Hickety, Pickety is now a cage-free hen! Carin Berger's stunning and whimsical eco-friendly collages are created from ticket stubs, newspapers, and other reused items.

Get ready to roll through the alphabet with a jaunty cast of busy little peas. Featuring a range of zippy characters from Acrobat Peas to Zoologist Peas, this delightful picture book highlights a variety of interests, hobbies, and careers—each one themed to a letter of the alphabet—and gives a wonderful sense of the colorful world we live in. Children will have so much fun poring over the detailed scenes that they won’t even realize they’re learning the alphabet along the way!

Langston Hughes's spare yet eloquent tribute to his people has been cherished for generations. Now, acclaimed photographer Charles R. Smith Jr. interprets this beloved poem in vivid sepia photographs that capture the glory, the beauty, and the soul of being a black American today.
Rah, rah, radishes, red and white! Carrots are calling. Take a bite! Oh boy, bok choy, Brussels sprout. Broccoli! Cauliflower! Shout it out! Know any kids who don't like veggies? Here is a book that's sure to change their hungry minds! With a raucous rhyming text, *Rah, Rah Radishes* celebrates fresh vegetables, nature's bright colors, and the joy of healthy eating. The book's interactive spirit encourages kids to join in on the read-aloud fun, and little ones won't be able to resist the book's vibrant photographs—they're a feast for the eyes!

A duckling grows and becomes a duck, so can a car grow into a truck? This beguiling book about growth will spark kids’ imaginations, as gatefolds playfully transform a watch into a clock and a shovel into a plow. The interactive format of question and answer will entrance young readers as living things that grow are compared to inanimate objects that don't. Ingenious!

On a cold, snowy day, a young girl and her mother shop to buy ingredients for vegetable soup. At home, they work together—step by step—to prepare the meal. While the soup is cooking, they spend the time playing games and reading. Before long, Daddy's home and the family sit down to enjoy a homemade dinner. This book celebrates the importance of making a nutritious meal and sharing in the process.

Annotations for the books came from Barnes and Noble at barnesandnoble.com