

Language Modeling

Language modeling - Building Communication, Vocabulary and Verbal Clarity

Benefits of Language Modeling

- Conversational dialogue allows information sharing, not just q and a between teacher and student
- Builds a relationship that extends throughout the school day
- Promotes extended focus and attention
- Studies have show that high quality teacher/student verbal interaction is directly related to student's development and capacity for learning no matter what the student's background or home experience may be

The building blocks of successful language modeling

- Foster a trusting open relationship with your students
- Find the hook that encourages conversation and engages children
- Take advantage of opportunities to expand vocabulary and language usage throughout your day

When can we talk?Anytime

Levels of interaction

- Low- labeling, commanding, locating, quizzing
- High- summarizing, defining, comparing, critiquing, predicting, problem solving

Today we will explore

How to create a language rich environment

6 Language Modeling Goals

- Use literacy to encourage language
- Boost the use of decontextualized conversation
- Expand student's personal narrative skills
- Increase vocabulary
- Promote peer interaction
- Assist non verbal or second language learners

Set the stage for a language rich environment

- Get down to their level
- Listen with interest and respond with specificity
- Begin conversations about what the child is doing or interested in
- Be mindful to comment, ask, respond
- Encourage complex verbal reasoning by leading activities that utilize the scientific method

The Scientific Method

- Step 1- pose question
- Step 2- make predictions
- Step 3 create visual representation
- Step 4 interpret results, compare and describe

Beyond "Good Job"

- *What a colorful painting! It reminds me of a sunset*
- *You are being such responsible helpers*
- *You have built a tower as tall as a skyscraper! What was your plan?*

Language Modeling

Interactive Reading- Enhance understanding through repetition

Day 1- Read the book. Ask children to guess what it could be about based on title and cover. Follow up with art activity.

Day 2- Reread with props. Ask if they remember the book's themes, title, etc. Make props available for free play.

Day 3- Read with children helping to tell the story by predicting events or filling in the blanks. Follow up with a related science, literacy or craft activity.

Day 4- Children take turns being the "teacher" and reading to the group. Encourage group to assist.

Day 5- Add movement to the story to make a play with props and characters

Choosing the right book. Look for books that have-

Strong story, simple text, recurring lines, imaginative illustrations, innovative presentation

Decontextualized Conversation

- Introduce topics beyond here and now and connect present to past events
- Play along with the children to model various roles through dramatic play scenarios

4 ways to extend conversations

- Relate to your life
- Relate to child's life-past event, imagination
- Restate child's comment with complex language -connect to prior knowledge
- Connect to prior knowledge

By extending conversations you are-

- Triggering high level thinking
- Enhancing understanding of the subject
- Modeling back/forth exchanges
- Increasing vocabulary
- Encouraging clarity of expression
- Promoting self reflection

Studies have shown that 80% of classroom conversations were about ongoing activities, focused on controlling children or asking specific questions. Only 20% were beneficial to literacy development

How can the picture-

Relate to your life, to the child's life, inspire vocabulary, and connect to prior knowledge?

Transform Your Classroom to inspire decontextualized conversation with a Makeover! For example the dramatic play area becomes a flower shop. This will-

- Introduce new vocabulary
- Link to science curriculum
- Connect to "real" world
- Encourage new conversational patterns
- Attract children to a fun filled activity!

Vocabulary plan

- Plan in advance- what/where/how

Language Modeling

- Introduce concepts to group in a meaningful way
- Relate the new word to child's level of understanding through comparison and description
- Repeat during small group conversations

Promoting peer interactions- modeling

- Play ideas, **Sharing**, helping complimenting, apologizing

Promoting peer interaction-environment

- Arrange room for optimal peer interaction
- Arrange groups during snack, circle and play – mix quiet children with outgoing to encourage conversation
- Include lots of dramatic play and board games
- Suggest teamwork in group activities
- Regulate amount of children at centers to promote conversation
- Plan for peer interactions during routines

Non-verbal children and dual language learners benefit from Self Talk and Parallel Talk

Self Talk- Teacher describes his/her actions

Parallel Talk- Teacher describes child's actions

Benefits Include

- Teacher is modeling language
- Giving attention to child- forming a bond
- Teacher can adjust speed of speech and frequency of specific target words
- Teacher can use gestures to reinforce meaning of target words
- Opens up possibilities for conversation without expectations

Creating a Thematic Play Center

- New center- What is it called?
- How would you introduce it to your children? Explanation, Questions?
- Vocabulary- What new words would you introduce?
- Activity- What would you do to stimulate group play in the new center?
- Conversation examples in the new center-
- Extensions into curriculum

Contact- monica@leapsmart.org, www.leapsmart.org

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Book: Essential Skills Every Preschooler Needs- Seven Movement games for Successful Kids (available on Amazon Kindle)