


Preschool English Learners
Principles and Practices to Promote
Language, Literacy, and Learning
A Resource Guide


California Department of Education (2007)

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Chapter 3:
Connecting First and Second
Languages

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Components of Language

The Sound System: Phonology

- The rules within a language by which units of sound (phonemes) are connected to make words.

The Structure of Words: Morphology

- The rules for how meaningful units of language are put together to form syllables and words.

Preschool English Learners Resource Guide, pages 22-23

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Components of Language

The Rules of Grammar: Syntax

- The rules for how words are put together to form sentences.

Meaning and Vocabulary: Semantics

- Learning the various meanings that can be expressed in a language.

Language Use in Social Context:

Pragmatics/Communicative Competence

- The rules for using spoken language, along with nonverbal communication, within different social contexts.

Preschool English Learners Resource Guide, pages 22-23

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Functions of Language

- Imparting and seeking factual information
- Expressing and finding out intellectual attitudes
- Expressing and finding out emotional attitudes
- Expressing and finding out moral attitudes
- Getting things done
- Socializing

Preschool English Learners Resource Guide, pages 23-24

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Practices To Promote Shared Experiences In Which Language Is Used As A Meaningful Tool To Communicate Interests, Ideas, And Emotions

Practices, p.31	Examples Observed			
	Environment and Materials	Routines	Interactions (Adult/ child and peer/peer)	What could be added, increased, adapted or changed?
Introduce vocabulary words by connecting to words in the child's home language				
Use signs or picture symbols				
Use picture or photo schedule for routines				
Adults demonstrate different functions of language				
New vocabulary is introduced in a context that has meaning				
Peer interactions are promoted				
Language is kept a step beyond the child's current development				

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