


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


California Department of Education (2007)

1



Chapter 5:
 Stages and Strategies in Second
 Language Acquisition

2



Stages of Learning a Second
 Language

How Do We Learn Something New?	
Stages of Learning a Second Language	Stages of Learning Something New
Use of home language to communicate	Listening to (using) what we already know
Observational and listening period	Learning by listening and watching
Telegraphic and formulaic speech	Trying out new pieces and chunks of a task
Fluid language use	Able to do it independently but simply at first

3

DVD: A World Full of Language: Supporting Preschool English Language Learners
Stages of Learning a Second Language

Use Of Home Language

- Children will use their home language when and where it works.

Observational and Listening Period

- Children are quiet but listening and watching and possibly trying out gestures and sounds.

4

DVD: A World Full of Language: Supporting Preschool English Language Learners
Stages of Learning a Second Language

Telegraphic and Formulaic Speech

- Children might use important words, such as labels and actions, but omit many other words.

Fluid Language Use

- Children can use full sentences in a variety of contexts, but are still learning and expanding their knowledge of the language.

5

DVD: A World Full of Language: Supporting Preschool English Language Learners					
Teaching Strategies					
Stage	Honor The Home Language	Create A Climate Of Belonging	Provide Scaffolds	Focus On The Child's Interests	Encourage Peer Support
<u>Use Of Home Language</u>					
<u>Observational and Listening Period</u>					
<u>Telegraphic And Formulaic Speech</u>					
<u>Fluid Language Speech</u>					

6

“Because of the advanced requirements of academic English, and the time it takes to master it, the use of a child’s home language as the child masters English will help the child learn important concepts.”

Preschool English Learners Resource Guide, page 51

7

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

8

Strategies in Second Language Acquisition

- Children learning a second language may use a variety of cognitive and social strategies (*PELG*, p. 52-53).
- Teachers can be responsive ‘in the moment’ to the strategies that children are using.
- Consider daily routines and activities during which teachers could match and support children’s strategies.

9

Teaching Tips to Match Children's Cognitive Strategies

- Make sure that your speech matches what you are referring to
- Use speech and phrases that are predictable and repetitive
- Accept the label that the child uses and model the new descriptor for him or her
- Serve as a total language model

Preschool English Learners Resource Guide, page 52

10

Teaching Tips to Match Children's Social Strategies

- When children are engaged in cooperative learning or play, serve as an interpreter for both the fluent English speaker and the child learning English
- Acknowledge the child's attempt to join a conversation and model more advanced language by extending his or her one or two words into more complete sentences
- Strategically pair children with helpful peers who can serve as good language and interactive models

Preschool English Learners Resource Guide, page 53

11

Strategies in Second Language Acquisition

- When during the day you would have opportunities to support children's second-language acquisition?
- When could you match your speech to something that you are referring to?
- When could you use speech and phrases that are predictable and repetitive?
- When could you create opportunities for the child to use labels that you could accept?
- When could you dialogue with children using a new language?

12

Responding to Stages of Communication

Teacher Support Strategies

- Start with what the child knows
- Start slowly
- Use scaffold communication
- Provide safe havens
- Get help from English-speaking children
- Expand and extend

Preschool English Learners Resource Guide, pages 54-55

13

Responding to Stages of Communication

Teacher Support Strategies

- Raise expectations
- Use repetition
- Talk about the here and now
- Do fine tuning
- Offer consistent routines
- Ensure inclusion

Preschool English Learners Resource Guide, pages 54-55

14
