Language Development Preschool and Early Elementary Years
University of Massachusetts Boston
ECHD 440 & 640
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Goals for this session
- Apply knowledge of language and literacy development when actively engaged in book reading and curriculum planning
- Articulate developmental sequences and milestones in all 5 areas of language knowledge
- Identify key learning experiences in language and literacy development from birth to 8 years old

Reading success is built upon:
- Alphabetic knowledge and word awareness
- Background knowledge to support meaning
- Oral Language
- Reading fluency

Actively engaged preschoolers in opportunities that
- Develop oral language and phonemic awareness
- Motivate children to learn and appreciate literature
- Demonstrate knowledge of print and letters

Phonetic Knowledge
- Hearing
- Producing
- Connecting sounds to print symbols.

Phonetic knowledge preschool
Guidelines for Preschool Learning Experiences English Language Arts:
8. Listen to, identify, and manipulate language sounds to develop auditory discrimination and phonemic awareness.
9. Link letters with sounds in play activities.
14. Recognize and supply rhythm and rhyme in poetry.
Phonetic Knowledge Kindergarten

- Know all 44 phonemes and which letters correspond to the sounds.
- Encourage children to say, sound out, and write words.

Phonetic Knowledge, word concept and spelling

1. Say the word mentally to him/herself;
2. Break off phonemes from the rest of the word;
3. Mentally sort through his/her repertoire of letters and find one that matches the phoneme;
4. Write down the letter chosen.

Phonetic Knowledge Early Elementary Years

1. Alphabet knowledge
2. Beginning consonant awareness
3. Concept of words in text
4. Spelling with beginning and ending consonants
5. Phoneme segmentation
6. Word recognition
7. Contextual reading ability.

Phonetic Knowledge in Kindergarten focuses on:

- Identify individual letters and match them with corresponding sounds
- Pronounce sounds commonly associated with corresponding words
- Blend onset-rimes to read one-syllable words. (cat, hat)
- Blend letter sounds to decode and read one-syllable words
- Identify upper and lower letters by name.

Common Core Standards: Foundational Skills K-5

- Print concepts
- Phonological awareness
- Phonics and word recognition
- Fluency

In the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks Beginning Reading strands 7.1 to 7.7 build on children phonetic knowledge skills.
Semantic Knowledge: Preschool

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Story Book Reading and Telling

Image by Hamed.S

Semantic Knowledge Kindergarten

• Increase vocabulary adding new words to refine what they mean.
• Use humor to discover new way to use words to express meaning
• Use academic language explicit to academic content

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Expand and Extend Vocabulary

• In Early Elementary School children must engage in activities that build vocabulary while engaged in rich content across content areas. As children engage in conversations, read, and write about a range of concepts they learn the vocabulary associated with that academic area or hobby.

Image by basheem

Kindergarten Learning Experiences

• There are many opportunities across curriculum content areas for children to develop semantic knowledge of language. Practitioners should use a project approach to build vocabulary across content areas.

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Syntactic Knowledge Preschool

Mean Length of Utterance (MLU)
He + was + happy.
(3 MLU’s)
He + was + un+ happy.
(4 MLU’s)
Syntactic Knowledge K-2nd grade

- Use pronouns
- Use verb phases
- Use decontextualized language
- Use oral and written language to communicate personal narratives and information

Morphemic Knowledge: Preschool

- ed
- s
- Un.

Morphemic Knowledge K-2nd grade

Morphemic knowledge supports children in:
- Speaking
- Writing
- Reading

Build word analysis skills!

Pragmatic Knowledge Preschool

- Guidelines for Preschool Learning Experience in English Language Arts
  1. Observe and use appropriate ways of interacting in a group
  2. Participate actively in discussion, listen to the ideas of others and ask and answer relevant questions
  3. Communicates personal experiences

Continuum of Decontextualization of Language

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dialogue</th>
<th>Oral Monologue</th>
<th>Written Text</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Comprehension tied to immediate context. Speaker-listener interaction.</td>
<td>Comprehension supported by the speaker’s utilization of intonation, gesture, and physical setting.</td>
<td>Comprehension independent of immediate context. Speaker use precise wording to paint a visual picture in reader’s mind.</td>
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Adapted from Otto 2010

Pragmatic Knowledge K to 2nd grade

Language may be used differently in different settings or depending on one’s role or viewpoint.
**Discussion Question**

- Describe the ways shared story book reading experiences with preschoolers enhances each of the five areas of language knowledge.

**OR**

- Use one of your favorite story books to identify how the book could be used to facilitate learning in all five areas of language development.