

This training is funded by the California Department of Social Services. The materials included in this training include materials or products developed in part or wholly by the California Department of Education and produced by the California Department of Social Services.

1

Preschool English Learners: Principles and Practices to Promote Language, Literacy, and Learning—A Resource Guide (Second Edition)



Chapter 5: Stages and Strategies in Second Language Acquisition

> State of California Department of Social Services, Copyright (2025) California Preschool Instructional Network (CPIN) | www.cpin.us

2

Partners in Early Learning

The California Department of Education (CDE) was given the authority in the 2021 Budget Bill to revise the Preschool Learning Foundations which will now be known as the California Preschool/Transitional Kindergarten Learning Foundations (PTKLF). The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) is developing implementation materials and professional development. This partnership benefits all children regardless of funding sources.







Training Outcomes

- Become familiar with the English language development foundations for listening and speaking.
- Discuss the stages of second language development for listening and speaking.
- Describe teaching strategies to support children's second language development in listening and speaking.



Various Ways of Communicating

Children express their thoughts through language, including spoken language, signed language, gestures, writing, pictures, and other augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) devices.



Writing is an area of significant growth between preschool and third grade. In early childhood settings, children learn pre-writing and dictate ideas to be written by an adult; in the early grades, children begin to write their own thoughts and ideas.

Multilingual Learners

Multilingual learners come to the classroom with a vocabulary foundation in their home language, which can contribute to their growth and development in English.



8

Definitions: Language Learning

- Second language acquisition is the process that a child goes
 through in learning more than one language.
- Learning to understand and use language is a gradual and ongoing process that begins at birth and continues through the early childhood years and beyond.

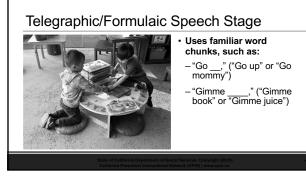


10



- May use home language with others
- Will eventually only use home language with others who also speak it
- May ultimately stop using home language





13



14

Snapshots of Children

Number off from 1-3.

- Reconvene in number-alike groups.
- Refer to Handout 5A: Descriptions of the Stages of Second Language Acquisition.
- Use the snapshot that corresponds to your number.

Snapshots of Children (continued)

- Review the assigned snapshot.
- Discuss the various stages of language acquisition in relation to the child described in the snapshot. (five minutes)
 Use Handout 5A as a resource.
- Come to a consensus on which stage(s) of second language acquisition most appropriately describe(s) the child in the snapshot. (two minutes)
- Reconvene as a whole group to share your impressions.

16

Keep in Mind . . .

A child may appear to be in one or more of these stages depending on:

- Context
- Communication partners
- Language scaffolds available to them
- Opportunities provided by the teacher

17

Focus on Fluid Language Use

Social English

- Used in relaxed interactions with peers and adults.

Academic English

- Used in many school activities and lessons.

Social English



- Relies mostly on spoken language using short, simple sentences
- May mislead teachers/ adults to think that the child is ready to learn and comprehend new concepts in the second language

19

Examples of Social English

- Laura is talking with her friend Brianna outside during free play. Laura is telling Brianna to be the "baby" and that she will be the "mommy."
- The teacher asks Juan what he did with his family on the weekend. Juan tells him about their trip to the beach.





22

Examples of Academic English

- Maximillian describes the pattern he has created with pattern blocks to his teacher.
- Ms. Delgado reads a book to the class. Luz Isabel retells the story prompted by the teacher's questions about the characters.

The goal is for children to perform in all four of the language skills addressed in school: listening, speaking, reading, and writing.

23

Connections to "Principles and Practices"

- Principle 4: Language development and learning are promoted when preschool teachers and children creatively and interactively use language.
- Principle 5: Experimenting with the use, form, purpose, and intent of the first and second languages leads to growth in acquiring the second language.
- Principle 6: Continued use and development of the child's home language will benefit the child as he or she acquires English.

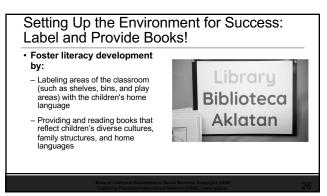
Promote Learning through Routines and Interactions

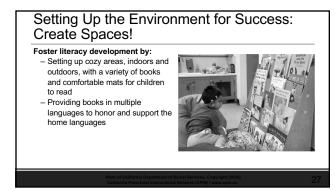
- Encourage the use of home languages through everyday routines.
- For example, allow children to use their home languages while retelling, during play and other activities, and while interacting with another child who speaks the same language.



Make books available in children's home languages.







Summary



Provide a comfortable and welcoming environment that allows for language experimentation and the acceptance of children's efforts to communicate.

Source: CA Preschool Curriculum Framework, Vol. 1, p. 196

28

Responding to the Cognitive Strategies Used by Children

- Turn to pages 52-53 in the PEL Resource Guide.
- Create A and B pairs:
- "A" pairs read Cognitive Strategies
- "B" pairs read Teaching Tips
- Discuss: What did you notice? What strategies do you use most frequently? Which were new? How might these strategies be helpful?

29

Key Points

- Second language acquisition is a complex process.
- Children move through four stages of second language acquisition: home language, observational/listening, telegraphic/formulaic, and fluid language use.
- A child may appear to be in one or more of the four stages at any given point in time, depending on several factors.

Key Points (continued)

- Language development and learning are shaped by children's experiences.
- Remember to celebrate children's attempts at using a new language and, at the same time, model correct grammar and vocabulary in English.

31

