



POPEY

Provincial Outreach Program for the Early Years

www.popey.ca

Oral Language Strategies for Primary Literacy Learners

January 27, 2021 - 3:15 to 4:15pm

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What We'll Focus On This Afternoon...

- exploring strategies to build language capacity for primary learners, by providing scaffolded supports that develop students' thinking, language, and vocabulary skills

Through...

a bit of theory - the *WHY*

time for practice: modelling & demonstrations - the *HOW*

opportunities to engage, reflect, chat & share - the *YOU*



Why is Talk Important?



- ✓ Talk provides a *window* into student thinking
- ✓ Talk supports *robust learning* by *boosting memory*, providing richer *associations*, and *supporting language development*
- ✓ Talk supports *deeper reasoning* and encourages students to *reason with evidence*
- ✓ Talk *primes students* in scientific thinking
- ✓ Talk supports the *development of social skills* and *encourages risk-taking* with *huge payoffs* for learning

If they can't say it, they won't be able to read or write it. - M. Clay



Effective Routines for Developing Oral Language

Daily experiences with:

Having
time to
talk

Answering
open-
ended
questions

Listening to
educators
model
speaking in
complete
sentences

Scaffolded
speaking &
listening
activities

Scaffolded
reading &
writing
activities

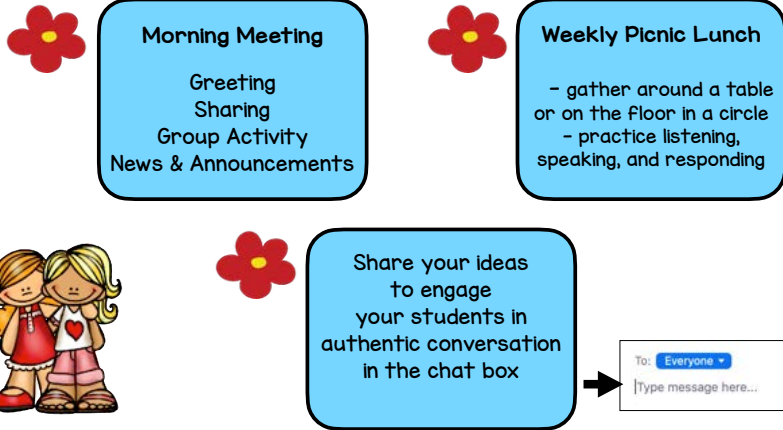
Discussions
about
independent
reading &
writing

Using
pictures to
generate &
reinforce
new
vocabulary

Language
games, word
play, drama
centre,
sharing...

Intentional Talk to support authentic conversations

When can we engage our students in **authentic** conversation?



Strategies for Effective Talk: Discussion Guidelines

Create a set of guidelines with students about what makes for good discussion. For example:

- ▶ invite someone to contribute by asking a question
- ▶ give proof of listening
- ▶ always respect each others' ideas
- ▶ clarify, challenge, summarize, and build on each others' ideas
- ▶ be prepared to change your mind



Strategies for Effective Talk:

Talking Points

Engage students by having them respond to a **interesting statement**, instead of a yes/no question:

- ▶ Would you rather be too hot or too cold? Why?
- ▶ Non-fiction books are better than fiction books.
- ▶ Dinosaurs are cooler than sharks.
- ▶ Would you rather have a party or go on a trip? Why?
- ▶ Vegetables are better than desserts.



Strategies for Effective Talk:

Sentence Stems

Give students sentence starters to help them build **richer** vocabulary, speak in **full sentences**, and **interact more** with one another

- ▶ I think...
- ▶ Linking to...
- ▶ I agree / disagree with...
- ▶ What do you mean by...?



teach students to build on what others are saying



☑ Breakout Rooms

- 🌸 In your small groups, you're going to share your detective notes on what you noticed about our conversations
- 🌸 As a group, decide on your effective discussion guidelines
For example: ask questions, use eye contact, listen carefully, wait your turn to speak...
- 🌸 Choose your 'top 4' most important discussion guidelines
**this may be slightly different depending on the age group of your students*

Choose one person who will be the recorder when we return to the main room



***5 minutes**

Students Learn By Talking

Talking represents each student's thinking.

We engage students in conversation that is grounded in a variety of texts - those that students read, hear read aloud, or write - and that expands their ability to comprehend ideas and use language to share thinking.



From - The Fountas & Pinnell Literacy Continuum Expanded Edition - Fountas & Pinnell

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Sources

unless otherwise noted, images from:

Educlips
Presenter Media
Storyblocks



Books

- Building Speech and Language Capacity Resource - Calgary Catholic School District
- The Fountas & Pinnell Literacy Continuum Expanded Edition - Fountas & Pinnell
- Comprehensive Literacy Resource Book - Kindergarten - Trehearne
- Nancy Updegraff - Learning Sciences International - Presentation



Info Links

more info links are available on our [website](#)

- [Edutopia: Oracy - Strategies for Developing Confident Speakers](#)
- [Talk Science Primer by Sarah Michaels & Cathy O'Connor: TERC \(Technical Education Research Centers\)](#)



Videos

more videos are available on our [website](#)

- [Oracy in the Classroom: Strategies for Effective Talk - Edutopia](#)
- [Piper](#)

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POPEY on YouTube

