

Tips for Supporting Second Language Learners in Word Study

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ILA Institute 2019

Today's Topics

- Deconstructing “word study” and “emergent bilinguals”
- Why word study is critical to literacy and biliteracy achievement
- Matching instruction to students' development in both literacy and language
- Language support tips in word study for multilingual learners

What is word study?

Word study =
phonics + spelling +
vocabulary instruction

Phonics

How letter-sound
correspondences
function in a language

Spelling

How words are written
in a language

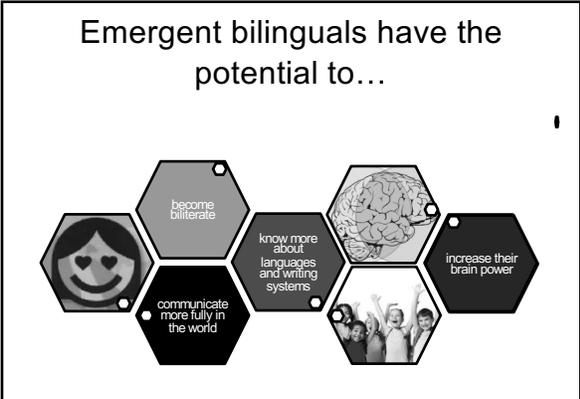
Vocabulary

The meanings of words

Word study is a time to focus on
 phonics + spelling +
 vocabulary instruction
at the word level

Who are emergent bilinguals?
 Students whose home language is different from the language of schooling

- Students learning English
- Students in dual immersion classrooms
- Students learning in a new language
 - Students becoming bilingual

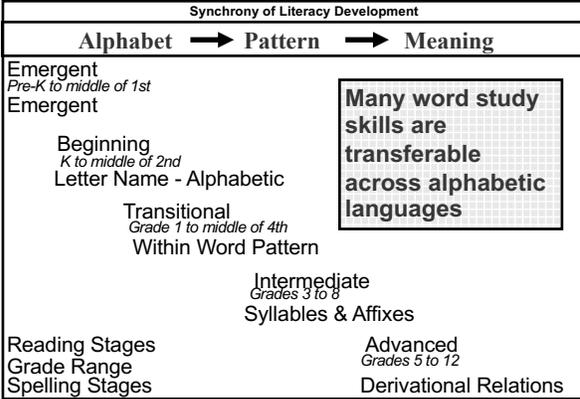


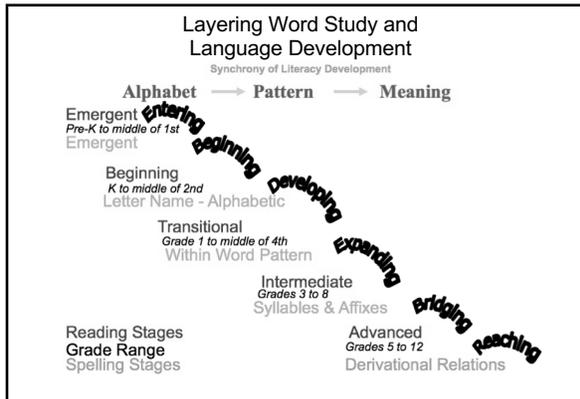
Word study with emergent bilinguals should ensure that material is understandable and builds on what students already know.

Words Their Way Professional Text

The Words Their Way with English Learners™ book provides the tools needed to carry out word study instruction with linguistically-diverse students, while complementing the use of phonics, spelling, and vocabulary curricula.

Online PDToolkit for Words Their Way™ available with WTW professional books.

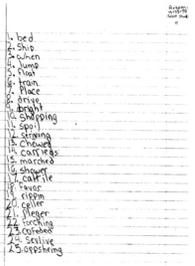




As you've heard today, to identify students' level for word study, use a developmental spelling inventory.




If you are working towards biliteracy, administer in both languages.




Tailor Word Study for Emergent Bilinguals With a Variety of Supports

Learners of a new language need vocabulary support, explicit instruction, and opportunities to engage with others.

Tip: Make it easy for students to understand by using clear and explicit instruction

Why?

Auditory information alone is difficult for emergent bilinguals to process. They get support from visuals, clear procedures and routines, and having things written down.

Example: When possible, use real pictures for sorts and/or include picture-word matches within sorts.

Tip: Use active learning strategies such as manipulating hands-on materials.

Why?

This allows emergent bilinguals to “show” what they know and physically reinforces the learning.

Example: Sorting words, pictures, and objects; building words with cards or manipulatives

Tip: Model sorts and other word study activities before expecting students to do them on their own.

Why?

The “I do”- “we do”- “you do” gradual release model ensures that students get the big picture, receive support at their learning level, and have opportunities to practice their new learning.

Example: The teacher presents an example and explains why it works, then students contribute to the model while receiving guidance.

Quick small group chat:

We’ve just talked about three ways to support emergent bilinguals in word study: using clear and explicit instruction, setting up active learning experiences, and using modeling and guided practice.

With your colleagues, discuss what you do that fits into these three areas and what you observe about how it helps your students as they learn language.

Tip: Identify key vocabulary to preteach and reinforce during word study lessons.

Why?

Vocabulary knowledge is essential to making meaning. Learning the meanings of words in a new language is one of the major hurdles in literacy development with emergent bilinguals.

Example:
The teacher adds new words to a chart to go over with students. Words are defined, pictured if possible or clarified, and students have opportunities to use the words with partners.

Tip: Unknown words are introduced approximately 3-4 a day and reviewed several times over a week.

Why?

Introducing more words at the same time will likely result in overload and lack of uptake. Reviewing words helps students retain them for the long term- the more experiences with them, the better!

Example: A structured vocabulary intervention revolving around a book and 10 key words over the course of a week.

Turn to a partner...

- Share an example of an issue related to vocabulary learning that has surfaced in your word study or other literacy instruction.
- What thoughts do you have about how to address this?

Tip: Provide many opportunities for your students to talk with each other about words and word study.

Why?

Using language helps students reflect about what they are learning, clarify misconceptions, and increase their language capabilities. It also builds community so that students feel included and supported by peers.

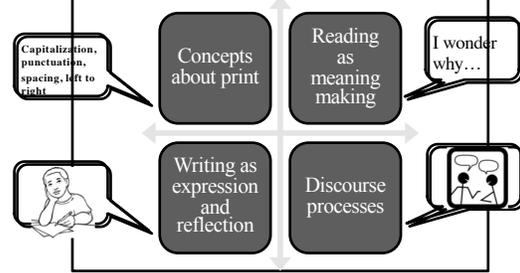
Example: Students use the picture sort cards to create sentences and use their new vocabulary.

Tip: Support bilingualism by encouraging students to share what they know in other languages and call upon all of their linguistic resources at school.

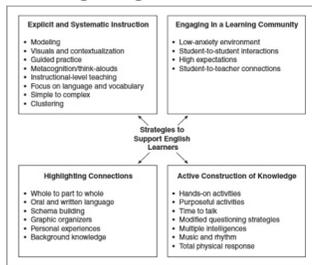
Why?

New learning builds on what is known. Being bilingual has many cognitive and affective benefits. Students feel valued and empowered when their strengths are noted.

Example: Explicitly share what transfers for developing readers and writers in English and their home language.



Support Strategies for New Language Learners



Apply and Assess

Additional Words: chop, croc, drop, shop, stop, got, spot, frog, dog, hog, dog, smog

Additional Words Activity: Say the additional words with children. Have children make word cards for them and sort the words by word family.

Alternative Sort: Identify My Category Sort the pictures and words into groups of living and nonliving things. Begin by sorting three of the cards into categories. Then have children tell you where the next picture and word card should go. Continue until all cards have been sorted.

Assess: Choose two words from each category to dictate in random order, and have children write them. Are children able to write each word correctly?

Supporting All Learners

School-Home Connections

Sort and Read: Sort the words into the same word-family groups you did in school. Read the words aloud to a family member. Then explain why you sorted the words that way.

Writing Sort: Write the headers on a piece of paper. Have a family member read about the words for you to write in the space.

Say Sentences: After the pictures and words have been sorted, you and a family member can take turns making up an interesting or funny sentence for it.

Check: After you have written all the words, check that you have spelled and placed them correctly.

Supporting Multilingual Learners

Language Acquisition: Talk about the meaning of the word *dog*. Explain that *run* has a similar meaning. Have children perform *dog* and use it in a sentence. Discuss other action words such as *jump, hop, skip, walk, dance, and swim*. Have children act out each word and make up a sentence for it.

Considerations: Children who speak Spanish, Cantonese, Vietnamese, and Korean may have difficulty distinguishing short *a* and short *o* sounds. Give children extra practice with word pairs such as: *aplofo, maplofo, flaplofo; cat; cow, batho, pastoo; baplofo, huplo.*

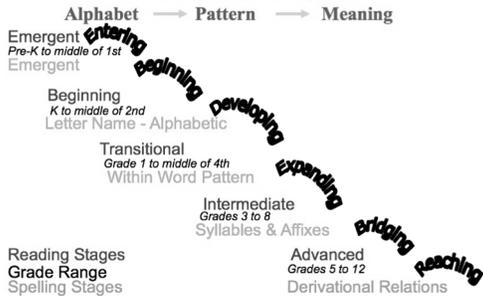
Differentiated Support

Extra Support: Children have difficulty sorting words for three families, -op and -ot. When they have mastered those families, introduce -og.

Challenge: Have partners make up oral words from each word family. For example: Go to a dog and get a dog. The dog is past fast. Can a dog dog on a dog? Have children write or illustrate the sentences.

Layering Word Study and Language Development

Synchrony of Literacy Development

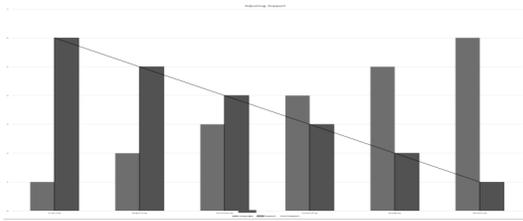


A Grid to Reflect On

Support Strategies to Use with Word Study in a New Language

Support Strategy Category	Entering	Beginning	Developing	Expanding	Bridging	Reaching
Explicit and Systematic Instruction						
Engaging in a Learning Community						
Highlighting Connections						
Active Construction of Knowledge						

Support strategies can be adjusted to the literacy and language levels of students.



Let's work to ensure that word study makes sense to emergent bilingual students, engages them, and adds to their multilingual capabilities!

Thank you for being here today!

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