

## Loving and Learning Language

Presented by Josie Field  
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## What is Language Development?

- Speaking and listening to communicate meaning
  - Strong predictor of child becoming a reader
  - “The more that children know about language...the better equipped they are to succeed in reading.”
    - National Research Council

## Fostering Language Development

- Provide a classroom with lots of language
- Provide a print rich learning environment
- Provide frequent opportunities for conversations
- Ask open ended and thought provoking questions
- Create environments that are engaging, safe, and welcoming

## Strategies for Language Development

- Model rich vocabulary
- Extend language – add words
- Use questions and prompts
- Expand children's ideas
- Request clarification from children
- Promote questions and conversation between children
- Provide props and materials getting feedback and responses from children
- Allow time for processing and thinking

## Help Children Build Strong Vocabularies

- Plan and introduce new words weekly
- Engage children to use new words
- Create opportunities to use the words in context all over the room
- Provide situations where children can teach the words through play
- Provide strong thematic connections over extended time to allow time for the words to become "owned".

## Benefits of Reading Aloud

- Build listening and phonological awareness skills
- Learn new vocabulary
- Understand more about written language
- Develop comprehension skills
- Opportunities to grow world knowledge

## Planning Book Reads

- Plans for before reading
  - Know the book
  - Decide on objectives
- Attitudes during reading
  - First reading
  - Additional readings
- Extending the book
  - “The End” is not the end

## Language Opportunities in the Dramatic Play and Block Areas

- Themes that are relevant and fun
- Time to learn and practice
- Settings that are engaging
- Roles that represent real life
- Props that create vocabulary development opportunities
- Print that fosters conversation and interest in writing
- Adaptations of furnishings