Explicit Vocabulary Instruction

Strong vocabulary skills in elementary school can often be a predictor of future student success in school. Which is why teaching vocabulary properly is so important. One effective method for vocabulary instruction is explicit teaching. Explicit teaching is the purposeful creation and delivery of information. Here are five tips for providing explicit vocabulary instruction to your class:

Spencer, Elizabeth J, et al. Teaching Vocabulary in Storybooks: Embedding Explicit Vocabulary Instruction for Young Children. Young Exceptional Children, 2012, pp. 1-15, Teaching Vocabulary in Storybooks: Embedding Explicit Vocabulary Instruction for Young Children, yec.sagepub.com/.

Selection

Carefully select focus words

Choose words that are unfamiliar for your children, are useful in everyday life, and occur frequently in story books to allow for the word to be easily incorporated into vocabulary.

Depth

Teach for depth of understanding

You want your children to acquire a deep knowledge of the words you're teaching. This means they can both define the word and associate its meaning with multiple contexts.



Practice active responding

The most effective teaching strategies involve active engagement from students. Have children respond during reading by repeating the new word, saying the definition, and doing an activity involving the word.

Assess

Fvaluate effectiveness

You can find pre-made vocabulary exams or you can make your own. The key here is find out which students need additional instruction and which ones truly understand the new words.

Repeat

Constant exposure is key

Repeated exposure to instructional targets combined with challenging, guided practice including immediate feedback allows for knowledge to be expanded.

