

LANGUAGE IN READING



Without language, reading is only as strong as the sounds made from the codes on the page. Language is the meaning behind the words.

INDIRECT EFFECTS OF EARLY LANGUAGE SKILLS ON READING

Language is the underlying factor influencing reading via a multitude of indirect pathways.

- The ability to understand words predicts the ability to
 - Learn new vocabulary
 - Comprehend what one reads
 - Access verbal information
 - Gain knowledge



THE TIME FRAME PROBLEM - LONG TERM EFFECTS



The effects of language are everlasting. Not only does language help through the decoding process early on, studies show early language skills can lead to higher IQ scores well into their twenties. And, for children at risk of educational failure, early and intensive language support is critical.

LANGUAGE IS HARDER TO TEACH THAN CODE

While decoding skills develop rapidly and are linked to direct enhancements in reading ability, language is slow growing, yet linked to long-term reading comprehension. Just because language is a slower process that is ever growing and changing does not mean that it is less important.



HOW CAN YOU PROMOTE LANGUAGE?



Recognize that oral language and background knowledge should be viewed as Tier 1 skills that must not be neglected if we want to build strong readers. Early literacy development is more than code-based instruction. Rather, it is the integral connection of code, content, and language.

SPEAKING OUT FOR LANGUAGE

Why Language is Central to Reading Development. David K. Dickinson, Roberta M. Golinkoff, and Kathy Hirsh-Pasek. 2010. Educational Researcher, Vol. 39, No. 4, pp. 305-310
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