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Reading Matters!

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Oral Language is the Heart of Literacy Instruction!

Kids come to school with a wide range of oral language experiences.

TV talk is not the slow, expressive talk of parents as they interact with their infants.

The more television watching a toddler did before the age of 3, the lower their scores on later test of reading achievement (Zimmerman and Christakis, 2005).

The classroom teachers must provide rich oral language activities EVERY DAY!

***Focus on activities that develop speaking, listening and conversational skills.**

***Create opportunities for purposeful talk.**

***Model the use of rich and interesting language.**

The following activities from Judy Dodson will help develop oral language in the classroom.

1. The 30 second Conversation

***Choose a few students in your class who are weak in oral language.**

***Take 30 seconds each day to engage the in authentic**

2. Recipes for a 600 Book Kid in Kindergarten

***What you will need:** one teacher, one class, good books!

***Read 3 books a day, every day and you will wash your children in words and create a 600 book kid. You can make a difference in the kids who have not been exposed to books!!**

****Do it again in 1st grade and by the middle of the year you will have created a 1000 book kid!**

*****The students WILL understand and engage in oral language more easily.**

3. Buddy Talk

***Make connections to what is already known links new learning to old and deepens new learning.**

***Students take new learning (words, concepts, etc) and each student shares a personal connection with their neighbor.**

***emphasizes 100% engagement in oral language response.**

4. Speaking from the heart.

***Give each pair or groups a heart. When they are holding the heart they are the speaker and the rest of the group are the listeners. The heart passes back and forth during the**

A teacher affects eternity:
he can never tell
where his influence
stops.
Henry Adams



*Structure the conversation around your current themes or vocabulary words.

Family Connections and Activities

*Create a positive climate for parents.

*Educate parents about oral language and school achievement connections.

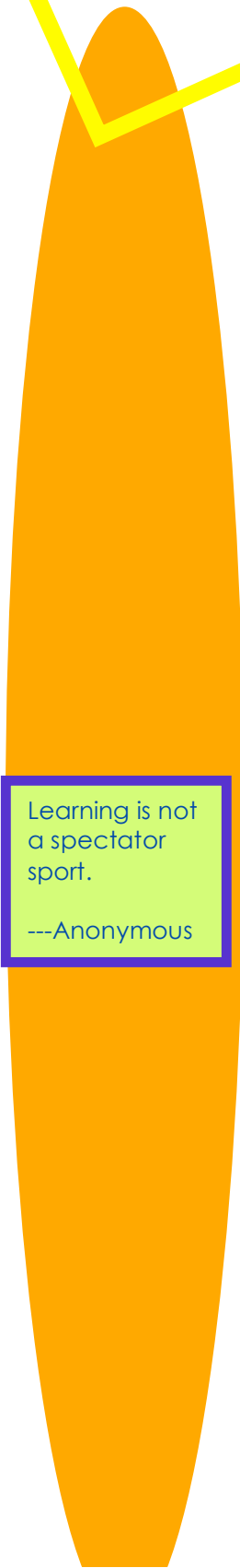
*Affirmation for parents: Call early, call often with compliments for children and parents when possible.

Ideas for parents...

*Parents are given tapes of book for them to listen to with their child.

*Students/parents are given topics to discuss at home to help encourage language development and family time.

*Car topics: give ideas for parent and child to talk about while driving in the car. Ex. friends, feelings, something they learned, something funny.



Learning is not
a spectator
sport.

---Anonymous

Ideas adapted from Judy Dodson presentation The Talking Classroom January 2009 at the LETRS SUMMIT New Orleans

Don't forget to visit our website
at coaches4.wikispaces.com for
activities to print and use in your
classroom.