

Tips for Language and Literacy Development (LLD)

“Purposeful conversation in authentic context” (Hilberg, et al., 2003, p. 8)

1. Choose your language goal for the activity. Think about developmentally appropriate ways to bridge students’ everyday language with academic language.
 - a. “Let’s talk about the differences between similes and metaphors.”
 - b. “Let’s think of all the words that sound like ‘hat’ and make a list of ‘_at family’ words. We can make a funny song using our word list.”

2. “Welcome all contributions” (Dalton, 2008). Encourage your students to express themselves. Pay close attention to and build upon both their verbal and non-verbal cues. Some children may participate in their home language. Notice these attempts, validate and build upon them to move learners towards the language goal(s).

3. Some verbal support strategies that have been shown to encourage participation and promote language development include narrating or “mirror talk” of students’ actions, asking questions, linking new words to familiar words, recasting or extending what children say or do, and modeling of the targeted vocabulary.
 - a. “I see you chose pictures of a rat, hat and mat but left the pictures of dog, and sun out. Let’s say and write the words together and see how they sound.”