



Classroom Activities to Promote Language Development

Reading

- Read and assign a variety of story/book types
- Compare/contrast stories
- Discuss the main idea and supporting details
- Have students answer comprehension questions (direct, inferential, prediction)
- Address vocabulary terms in the story
- **Cues and Strategies**
 - Incorporate a graphic organizer
 - Allow students to take notes or draw pictures to accompany the story
 - Repeat/rephrase important information
 - Accompany the story with pictures/visuals
 - Have students use context clues for unknown or difficult vocabulary

Writing

- Have older students write a variety of story types (e.g., fiction, non-fiction, persuasive, letter, poetry)
- Discuss the intended audience, purpose of the story, and the planning process
- Have students practice transitions/using temporal words in the story (e.g., first, then, after)
- Have students share their story with a partner or group followed by Q&A time with the author
- Provide opportunities to practice writing a variety of sentence forms/structures
 - Focus on a specific grammatical form if students have an area of weakness
- **Cues and Strategies**
 - Incorporate a planning sheet or visual organizer
 - Walk students through the planning process
 - Provide models of grammatical forms or tricky sentence structures
 - Prompt students to elaborate on their ideas



Math

- Incorporate word problems requiring students to interpret language to figure out a math problem
- Have students come up with their own word problems/narrative incorporating the target math concept
- Incorporate mathematical terms into vocabulary activities
 - Define math vocabulary
 - Identify opposites (e.g., multiply/divide) and synonyms (e.g., subtract/take away)
 - List items in a category (e.g., geometrical shapes, odd numbers)
- **Cues and Strategies**
 - Have students take notes while you read a word problem aloud
 - Repeat/rephrase important information
 - Accompany verbal information with pictures or visual cues

History/ Social Studies

- Ask students to summarize a historical event in writing or verbally using their own words
- Pull vocabulary terms and have students describe/define
- Have students pick a historical topic and develop a persuasive argument
- Compare/contrast two historical figures, events, or time periods
- **Cues and Strategies**
 - Have students practice using context clues for unknown vocabulary words
 - Have students take notes on verbally presented information
 - Accompany verbal information with visual cues
 - Repeat/rephrase important information and vocabulary

Science

- When having students conduct experiments:
 - Ask them to write out/verbally describe the steps in detail
 - Make predictions about what will happen and explain why
 - Make lists of materials needed for the experiment
- Pull vocabulary terms and have students describe/define
- Have students “teach” the class by describing a scientific idea or concept with specific examples
- Have students compare/contrast scientific terms or ideas (e.g., Jupiter vs. Earth)
- **Cues and Strategies**
 - Use a visual organizer for planning and organization of experiments
 - Have students take notes on verbally presented information
 - Accompany verbal information with visual cues
 - Repeat/rephrase important information and vocabulary