

CELL Tip Sheet for Teachers

Child Interest

- Use child interest as the basis of language and literacy learning
- Interest in an activity will keep a child engaged longer
- Use a child's personal interests to promote language and literacy learning
- Create learning situations that attract a child's curiosity
- Child interest + Engagement + Competence = Mastery

Literacy-Rich Environments

- Use literacy-rich environments as the context for stimulating learning
- Provide a variety of materials related to writing and reading
- Create interesting, age-appropriate, easily accessible environments
- Create literacy-rich environments inside and outside the classroom
- Use community environments that are literacy rich when possible

Everyday Literacy Activities

- Be sure literacy activities are interest-based
- Provide activities that enhance language learning
- Provide activities that enhance early literacy learning
- Be sure language and early literacy activities happen frequently
- Increase the number of language and literacy opportunities within an activity

Responsive Teaching

- **Notice** children's interests and participation in everyday literacy activities
- **Pay attention** to children's attempts to interact with others or literacy materials
- **Respond promptly** when children want to interact with you or use literacy materials
- **Introduce new information** to expand language and literacy learning
- **Support and encourage** children to try new skills and behaviors

Adaptations

- Adaptations can help ALL children fully participate in activities
- Use the least intrusive adaptation possible
- Make any environmental adaptations that make access easier
- Make adaptations to the activity to allow more participation
- Adapt materials to make them easier to handle and use
- Use instructional adaptations to give children more time, more cues, or less steps
- Use direct assistance when other adaptations fail