

*A collection of information and links to  
websites concerning Early Language  
Learning*

March 2010

### **Languages in the News**

*Why learn another language?*<sup>1</sup>

This article discusses the status of languages in the world today and demonstrates the importance of knowing another language to function in today's global culture and to obtain employment. Thus, the contents of the article reiterate the need to learn another language to understand other cultures, to gain access to viewpoints only available through communicating in the target language of the culture, and to understand other ways of looking at the world.

Click here to read [Why learn another language?](#)

### **Test Your Geography Knowledge**

This website includes 37 interactive maps that are set up as quizzes. For each question in the quiz, the participant is given 3 opportunities to answer correctly. Points are assigned according to the number of tries and correct answers. Included in the website are map quizzes for:

- The world – continents and oceans
- Africa – countries, capitals

- Asia – countries, states/provinces within some countries, capitals
- Australia/Oceania – countries, capitals, states/provinces
- Europe – countries, states/provinces within some countries, capitals
- North America – countries, states/provinces within some countries, capitals
- South America - countries, capitals

Click here to [Test Your Geography Knowledge.](#)

### **Encouraging Classroom Language Use, Part I**<sup>2</sup>

This article provides some useful insights in how best to teach a second language. The author highlights the importance of using Classroom Language to help students appreciate the target language as real communication and develop their confidence. He describes classroom language as a collection of phrases used for communication among teacher and students.

Some of the opportunities for authentic use of the language are requests, choices, leadership, and classroom behavior. The essential phrases and expressions used on a regular basis should be displayed prominently in the classroom until they become part of the students' conversation.

The author summarizes three steps for encouraging classroom language use,

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<sup>1</sup> Link submitted by Heather Hendry.

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<sup>2</sup> Link submitted by Meriem Bousaidi.

and in the second part, seeks to show how an activity can be modified to encourage the four different kinds of classroom language. The author promises educators that the frequent and systematic use of a selected list of words and expressions, reinforced with a variety of non-verbal prompts, teachers can help students to master and enjoy using classroom language.

Click here to read [“Encouraging Classroom Language Use, Part I”](#)

### **Spiral Second Language Teaching**<sup>3</sup>

This article reinforces the use of a spiraled curriculum to better engage students in authentic contexts and to have them learn grammar and structures in a natural progression. A few ideas presented by the author include:

1. Students work on an authentic topic, developing the gist
2. Students continue with the topic, developing a deeper comprehension
3. Students are taught the 'missing' vocabulary and look at how the new structures / grammar are used within this context

The method of using authentic texts and giving ample opportunity to interact with these structures, vocabulary, and grammar in other contexts helps students internalize the language.

Click here to read more of [Spiral Second Language Teaching](#).

<sup>3</sup>Link submitted by Meriem Bousaidi.

### **World Language Assessment: Get in the Mode!**<sup>4</sup>

World Language Assessment: Get in the Mode! offers a free, online, professional development program on world language assessment. This program was produced by the Education Communication Board of Wisconsin with help from the Department of Public Instruction, the Wisconsin Association for Language Teachers, and WL educators from around the state. It features seven on demand videos featuring K-12 WL teachers demonstrating and talking about the role of assessment in their teaching. Teachers can learn about different types of assessment and assessment tools, including the use of technology in assessment, and how to implement those assessments. In addition, they can see examples of how to assess communication and cultural competence.

Click here to learn more about [World Language Assessment: Get in the Mode!](#)

This issue of *Newsworthy* was compiled by Tammy Dann. Send any comments, questions, or information for future issues of *Newsworthy* to Tammy Dann at [trdann@q.com](mailto:trdann@q.com).

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<sup>4</sup> Link submitted by Lynn Sessler, Central States East Regional Rep.