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

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Languages in the News

Why learn another language?¹

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

Click here to Test Your Geography Knowledge.

Encouraging Classroom Language Use, Part I²

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,

¹ Link submitted by Heather Hendry.
² 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**

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**.

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3Link submitted by Meriem Bousaidi.

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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.

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4 Link submitted by Lynn Sessler, Central States
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