



Oral Language Building Blocks for TWBI Classrooms

Building Blocks to Language Proficiency

Helena Curtain, Ph.D.

Email: helenacurtain@gmail.com
helenacurtainswiki.wikispaces.com



Continuum of Language Activities

Low Risk ←

→ High Risk

Patterned

Practice Activities
 Memorized Greetings, Poems,
 Chants, Songs, Stories

Controlled

Structured Conversations
 Partner work—limited choice
 Memorized presentations
 Language frames

Independent

Open-ended conversations
 presentations

Examples of Oral Language Building Blocks

Strategies for Conversational Management

Passwords, Phrase of the Week (Source for some password visuals miscositas.com)

Language Ladders

<p>Conversational Management I don't understand. What's a _____? How do you _____? Tell me more. Say it again, Please What do I do I do /first/next/after that? What does that mean? Is this what you mean?</p>	<p>Expressions for Group Work What a good idea! I like what you said! Wonderful! etc. What do you think? I agree/I don't agree It's your turn We have ... minutes left</p>	<p>Thank You Thanks! Thank you! Thank you so much! Thank you very much! It's so nice of you to _____. I appreciate your _____</p>
<p>Conflict Resolution I don't like it when you _____. Please stop. I feel _____ when you _____. Please don't _____ anymore. I think you have my _____. Could you give it back please?</p>	<p>Permission to go to the Bathroom ¿Puedo ir al baño? ¿Me permite ir al baño? Por favor permítame ir al baño. Necesito ir al baño.</p>	<p>Farewells Arrivederci Buona Sera Ci vediamo domani Ciao Addio</p>

TPR, TPR Storytelling

Rhymes, Poems,

Chants/Raps,

Songs,

Stories, especially repetitive stories

Games

Partner Activities

Informal Partner Activity: “Tell Your Partner”

Structured partner activities, Find someone— Interviews-- Surveys- -Jigsaw— Finding/Giving Information— Finding Differences—

Template Activity: Do you have _____ in your sandwich? (paper manipulatives in envelope)

Template Activity: Where is the Teddy Bear? (Each partner “hides” counter in a picture.)