The ABC’s Of Emergent Literacy Intervention

Joy Good, Ph.D., CCC-SLP

Today’s agenda:

- What is emergent literacy?
- What is the relationship between emergent literacy development and later literacy achievement?
- What is my role as an SLP with regard to emergent literacy intervention?

What is emergent literacy?

- Emergent literacy involves the knowledge, skills, and attitudes that are developmental precursors to conventional forms of reading and writing (Whitehurst & Lonigan, 1998).

What is emergent literacy?

- Emergent literacy skills begin developing in early infancy and early childhood through participation with adults in meaningful activities revolving around print.

What is emergent literacy?

- Building Blocks for Learning to Read and Write:
  - Print Knowledge
  - Phonological Awareness
  - Emergent Writing

What is emergent literacy?

- Print Knowledge:
  - Book conventions
  - Print conventions
  - Print forms
What is emergent literacy?

Phonological awareness - child's increasing awareness of the sound system

✓ Words
  ✓ baseball = base + ball
  ✓ cupcake = cup + cake

✓ Syllables
  ✓ bookish = book + ish
  ✓ catty = cat + ty

What is emergent literacy?

✓ Onset-Rime
  ✓ cat = /k/ + at
  ✓ hot = /h/ + ot

✓ Phonemes
  ✓ mat = /m/ + /a/ + /t/
  ✓ top = /t/ + /o/ + /p/

What is emergent literacy?

• Phonological Awareness Skills:
  ✓ Rhyme Detection/ Formation
  ✓ Alliteration
  ✓ Phoneme segmentation
  ✓ Phoneme blending
  ✓ Sound Identification

What is emergent literacy?

• Emergent Writing means that children begin to understand that writing is a form of communication and their marks on paper convey a message" (Mayer, 2007, p. 35).

What is emergent literacy?

Emergent Writing develops gradually across the preschool pattern much like phonological awareness:

✓ Pictures
✓ Scribbling
✓ Sound Representation
✓ Conventional Spelling

Influence of Emergent Literacy Skills

Strong emergent literacy skills provide the foundation for later literacy achievement. Print Knowledge-A number of studies have linked print knowledge (i.e., environmental print, print conventions and forms, and alphabet knowledge) to later decoding ability as well as later spelling knowledge.
**Influence of Emergent Literacy Skills**

Phonological Awareness - Studies have consistently identified it as the oral language skill most closely associated with literacy achievement in both early and mid elementary grades.

**Role of SLP**

- Children with language impairment are at significant risk for not developing strong emergent literacy skills without direct intervention.
- Poor literacy foundation may later manifest in diagnoses of reading and spelling disabilities.

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<th>Role of SLP</th>
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<td>✓ Over 50% of children with LI in preschool or kindergarten will be diagnosed with a reading disability at some point during their academic years.</td>
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<td>✓ Early intervention may serve as a form of prevention.</td>
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<td>✓ Unique qualifications for this role</td>
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<td>✓ Provide direct intervention for identified students</td>
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<td>✓ Provide indirect service through collaboration with preschool and special education professionals</td>
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<td>✓ Provide parent and community education</td>
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**Emergent Literacy Intervention**

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<th>Print Referencing Procedures</th>
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<td>Print referencing procedures are defined as adults’ use of cues to recruit children’s attention to print concepts embedded into book reading interactions.</td>
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<td>Cues are behaviors that either implicitly or explicitly direct attention to a referent or concept and these direct attention to print features.</td>
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Print Referencing Procedures

- Verbal cues-
  - A. Comments
    - A. Adults’ explanations
    - B. Nonevocative
  - B. Questions
    - A. Evocative
    - B. Requires scaffolding
    - C. Engage with print
    - D. Recruits attention
  - C. Requests-
    - A. Turn-taking
    - B. Evocative

- Nonverbal Cues-
  - A. Pointing
    - A. Nonevocative
    - B. Used in combination with other strategies
  - B. Tracking
    - A. Beneficial for teaching directionality
    - B. Moving a finger beneath letter or words

Print Referencing Procedures

- Include print focus with reach book exposure.
- Vary targets.
- Use print-salient books.
- Provide scaffolding as needed to ensure success.

Emergent Literacy Intervention

Phonological Awareness

- Use children’s literature and songs as a springboard to draw children’s attention to spoken language.
  - Listening games
  - Nursery rhymes
  - Shared reading of rhyming books

Phonological Awareness

- Consider the following hierarchy of difficulty:
  - Rhyming
  - Words/ Sentences
  - Syllables
  - Initial/ Final Sounds
  - Phonemes
Emergent Literacy Intervention

Emergent Writing

Child Dictation
Child Emergent Writing
Kid Writing Lesson

Literacy-based Activities

A. Language Experience Activity – Book Cooks: Literature-Based Classroom Cooking (Bruno, 1991)
B. Dramatic Play- Bunce (1995)- Language Focused Curricula
C. Natural Environment
D. Shared Storybook Reading

Conclusions

SLP’s are distinctly qualified to intervene in the area of emergent literacy.
These techniques/ strategies may be seamlessly integrated into existing plans.
By boosting the emergent literacy skills of their clients, they are paving the road for future literacy success.

Questions/ Comments

Thank you!
Joy Good
Contact: jgood@astate.edu