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- Early childhood is when children learn physical exploration, and language through direct experience, observation,
- Concepts organize our world and extend patterns and categories our learning with language to identify
- incidental learning Children with disabilities have barriers to

Concept development

- * Nouns: dog, book, person, "mom" vs MY mom
- * Descriptive words: what it looks and feels like
- * Verbs: am, is, are, run, walk, jump
- Opposites: big vs small, smooth vs rough, fast vs slow
- Feelings: happy, angry, sad, lonely, frustrated
- * Time: first, last, now, later, before

Barriers

- * Physical and sensory impairment: mobility, vision, communication
- Sensory processing: visual, auditory, tactile, vestibular, proprioceptive
- Cognitive, memory and language



Concept development

- Foster repeated hands-on their natural purpose in natural exploration with concrete objects for opportunities and environments
- Model use of language to ask and answer questions, describe, attach meaning to words

1st word: WHAT

- High-frequency, interactive, noun and question word
- * Important to label nouns and share information: WHAT is that?
- Supports choice-making: WHAT would you LIKE?

snarkiness: WHAT?!? That's WHAT!

Reflect, re-direct

- WHAT is that sound? Its the janitor! Let's keep reading now!
- * WHAT is at the window? Its a bird! Let's get back to work!
- WHAT are we listening for? We are listening so we can...

Modelling WHAT as a question

- Conversation, not interrogation
- Expectant pause: count to 5! or 25!
- * Invite the student to respond
- Accept all multi-modal responses
- * Reflect the response with AAC

Model your response

- * WHAT is that? Its a thing/animal/bird!
- school/Principal Johnson! WHAT is that sound? It is a people/
- describing words/ROUGH. WHAT does this feel like? I think it is

Example: attention

- Adult: "WHAT book should we read?"
- Student: looks to the doorway, points to person standing there
- Adult: "WHAT do you see? Ah, that is WHAT were we doing? We were reading. WHAT book should we read?" Principle Johnson! I see her, too. Now,



2nd word: NEED

- Opportunity to teach that all of us NEED help and assistance
- * Model what you need: I NEED HELP with this.
- Ask other adults and peers to HELP you with what you NEED
- *WHAT else do we NEED to finish this?

3rd and 4th word: ARE, IS

- High-frequency

Supports description:
That IS big!
I think YOU ARE happy today!
I think YOU ARE NOT happy about that!

* Prioritize for concept development: labeling, describing, etc.

describe compare/contrast share label or identify We are listening so we can... learning strategies Predictability and

ARE, IS and concepts of time

- Visual schedules
- It IS almost time for recess!
- WHAT ARE we doing next? First, we ARE reading.



Predictability and books

- Repeated readings of familiar books
- WHAT IS your favorite part? WHAT part IS funny? Sad? Repeated experiences across books WHO IS your favorite character?

Concept development This IS big, that IS NOT Negate with NOT: This IS





Upcoming webinars * February 11: Independent book exploration and reading: with Caroline Musselwhite * February 18: Connecting core vocabulary with the curriculum * February 25: Social Scripts with Caroline Musselwhite





