

Arkansas Tech University
Professional Development Grant
Final Report

Conference on Academic Research in Education
2017 First Annual Conference
Las Vegas, Nevada
January 30 – February 2, 2017

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B. Restatement of Professional Enhancement Opportunity

This purpose of this presentation was to describe an evidence-based best practice model for promoting oral language development through the process of Phonemic Awareness. Young children must develop phonemic awareness prior to learning to read the printed word. Children must become aware of how the sounds in words work. Research indicates phonemic awareness and letter knowledge are key predictors to student success in learning to read. Keeping in mind that children develop early reading skills at various paces, it is important that activities allow children to successfully build upon the skills they already possess. Because the goal of early reading skills is to foster a child's ability to decode unknown words in text, teachers of young children need to focus on the integration of phonemic awareness and letter recognition without losing sight of the ultimate goal of reading. Phonemic awareness gradually develops through experience with oral language. A child's exposure to conversations, rhymes, books that promote wordplay, and playing with language help to develop a sense of how words, sentences, and language work.

C. Brief Review

The major content of this presentation was to discuss the importance of promoting oral language development as a key to reading success. The researcher explained the importance of phonemic awareness and letter knowledge as predictors to student success in learning to read. The researcher related the importance of rhymes, songs, and movement in connection to healthy brain development and preparing the brain for language acquisition (Blythe, 2011). Additionally, the researcher presented activities related to rhymes, wordplay, and playing with language in order to help children develop oral language and phonemic awareness.

D. Summary of Experience

I value the experiences gained through interacting with colleagues in my area of expertise. Additionally, by attending this conference I increased my professional skills and become a more effective educator, allowing me to expand my students' knowledge of teaching strategies, increase their level of professionalism, expand their writing skills, and facilitate their use of technology while learning how to teach within a diverse culture. Moreover, students will be much more thoroughly prepared when they enter the classroom as observers and interns.

E. Conclusion

In conclusion, when attending conferences, I discuss Arkansas Tech's Teacher Education Program and always gain new knowledge of other teacher education programs across the country. I also learn about various teaching ideas as well as new technology advances in education. I feel that this conference was greatly beneficial to my professional growth. It will have a positive impact on our Elementary Education students at Arkansas Tech University. This conference was a valuable source of information for my teaching. Furthermore, each new experience and new contact in the teacher preparation field, serves to help keep me well informed about Teacher Education and current initiatives

Please see below a copy of the nametag from the CARE Conference:

