The Kindergarten Chronicles

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Leaping Into the Language Standards

As you delve into the Kindergarten Common Core Language Standards, you may wonder, "Where do I begin?" In this month's edition of *The Kindergarten Chronicles*, links to helpful websites and articles are shared to make your lesson planning easier. The College and Career Readiness (CCR) anchor standards and grade-specific standards are necessary complements as you plan your lessons. The former provides broad standards, the latter provides additional specificity. Together, they define the skills and understandings that all students must demonstrate by the end of each grade. While links for the "parent" standards are provided, you will find resources within these links to address the "child" standards as well. Next month, another ELA standard will be highlighted.

Conventions of Standard English

L.K.1 Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.

- "What Kids Should Know Before Entering First Grade" - This article provides an overview about how developing certain skills in pre-kindergarten and kindergarten can help children benefit more from reading instruction in first grade.

- Sentence Quest: Using Parts of Speech to Write Descriptive Sentences - In this series of lessons, students create lists of nouns and verbs from their speaking vocabularies after listening to read-aloud stories about nouns and verbs.

- Student Center Activities K-1 - This link is the language section of the website for the Florida Center for Reading Research, where teachers can find learning center activities, listed by standard, specifically designed for students in grades K-1.

L.K.2 Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.

- Skill Focus: Sentence Structure - This lesson offers guided practice exploring end marks and a punctuation hunt for young children.

- Choosing Punctuation - This activity gives children an opportunity to use end marks as well as peer edit while reviewing other students' work.

- Punctuation Scavenger Hunt - This lesson plan uses a fun scavenger hunt that is appropriate as a small group activity for kindergarten students to identify end punctuation.

Knowledge of Language

L.K.3 (Begins in grade 2)

Vocabulary Acquisition and Use

L.K.4 Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on *kindergarten reading and content*.

- "Teaching Decoding" - This article, by Louisa Moats, discusses the importance of teaching students to analyze word structure, including how to use prefixes, suffixes and roots to decode unknown words.

- Utah Education Network - This website provides a lesson plan that uses informational text to teach vocabulary words.

- Dr. Anita Archer - In this video clip, Dr. Archer models a whole group lesson, utilizing direct and explicit vocabulary instruction.

L.K.5 With guidance and support from adults, explore word relationships and nuances in word meanings.

- ReadWriteThink - This website offers a lesson plan that allows students to discover action verbs.

- Teacher Practices Related to Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts - This document offers several language activities appropriate for learning effective communication and celebrating language.

- ReadWriteThink - This lesson uses environmental print from the students' surrounding community as part of classroom instruction.

L.K.6 Use words and phrases acquired through conversations, reading and being read to, and responding to texts.

- New Vocabulary - In this vocabulary instructional routine, students learn and practice using new vocabulary words selected from read-aloud text.

- Vocabulary Activities - This is a PDF from fcrr.org that specifically addresses vocabulary acquisition and expression relevant to Language Standard 6 for Kindergarten.

- ReadWriteThink - This lesson plan invites students to write short everyday notes, to remind, plan, request, or compliment, providing many natural opportunities for meaningful writing and lots of practice in encoding/decoding written text.

RPDP's Fall Kinder Classes

528 C Kindergarten: Oral Language Development - Connecting Reading & Writing in the CCSS

October 11-13 at Red Rock ES

524 C K-1 Literacy Stations

October 20 & November 3 at Gray ES

Please email Robyn Markovic for more information.

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