

POLL INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORTS

ANCHOR TEXTS AND ANCHOR EXPERIENCES



For all children, but especially dual and multilingual learners, exposure to a wide variety of vocabulary is key to making meaning and promoting oral language abilities. Anchor texts and experiences are intentionally planned and focus on children's interests, and concepts and ideas that are being explored. Key words are selected and introduced in children's home languages to help build the comprehension connection and foster meaningful interactions.

POLL STRATEGY:

Anchor Texts and Anchor Experiences promote dual language learners' oral language abilities, conceptual knowledge, and social-emotional development.

Anchor Texts are books with words and picture books that are selected intentionally, based on themes, and used repetitively to foster vocabulary and concept development.

Anchor Experiences are hands-on activities based on children's interests where words are introduced and used repetitively to help support meaning making.

ANCHOR TEXTS AND ANCHOR EXPERIENCES CAN BE BUILT AROUND...

- Daily routines and rituals.
- Family traditions and customs that are familiar to the child.
- Concepts and ideas that are being explored.
- Moments when the child is deeply focused on something (e.g., lights, faces, trees).
- Hands-on interactions with picture books.
- Special hands-on activities that are planned by the provider.

CONSIDERATIONS AS YOU PLAN FOR AND SELECT ANCHOR TEXTS AND ANCHOR EXPERIENCES

- Think about the children in your care and their interests.
- Select 3 - 4 key books (Anchor Texts) related to a particular topic or concept you will explore.
- Plan hands-on activities (Anchor Experiences) that are of interest and relevant to your children and explore concepts and ideas built on that experience.
- Choose at least 3 - 5 key vocabulary words from the Anchor Text or Anchor Experience to introduce and reinforce throughout the week.
- Make sure to introduce key vocabulary and concepts in home languages and English so all children can actively participate.
- Introduce vocabulary from the Anchor Text in home languages and English prior to reading the book. Family members or community volunteers can help you do this if staff members do not speak the languages of the children.
- Picture books can be adapted for multi-age settings and narrated in any language.

RESOURCES:

To learn more about Anchor Texts and Experiences, see the Anchor Texts and Experiences section at <https://www.pollstrategies.org>