Chapter 4

Content and Pedagogy: Transitional Kindergarten Through Grade One

Chapter at a Glance

Overview of the Span

The first years of schooling are critical ones. In transitional kindergarten through grade one, children acquire the skills, knowledge, and dispositions that establish the foundation for a lifetime of learning. They develop new understandings about how the world works, and they begin to build autonomy in their own learning. During this grade span, they have rich exposure to and multiple opportunities to engage thoughtfully with a range of high-quality literary and informational texts. They understand and use increasingly varied vocabulary, grammatical structures, and discourse practices as they share with one another their understandings and ideas about texts and other learning experiences. They learn about the English written system and acquire the foundational skills that enable them to independently interact with print as readers and writers in the years ahead. Children achieve these skills and understandings through carefully specified and strategically sequenced instruction and rich, authentic experiences in an intellectually challenging, developmentally appropriate environment that recognizes and responds to children's social-emotional, physical, and cognitive needs, all of which are critical to long-term literacy development (Dickinson, McCabe, and Essex 2006).

Children who are English learners (ELs) are doing all of these things as they are learning English as an additional language. In transitional kindergarten through grade one, EL children, too, learn how to interact in meaningful ways with texts and with others. They learn to collaborate with peers, exchanging information about the texts they are listening to or reading and contributing their ideas and opinions in conversations. They produce language in an increasing variety of ways through writing and discussing, and they develop an awareness about how language works. They make great strides during the grade span through participation in a carefully designed instructional program that immerses them in rigorous and meaningful content.

California's diverse population includes children with disabilities. These children also participate in the rigorous ELA/literacy curriculum. Expectations are high, but accompanying high expectations are appropriate instruction (including collaborations among specialists, teachers, and families) and supports and accommodations that allow

for students' achievement of the skills and knowledge called for by the CA CCSS for ELA/Literacy and, as appropriate, the CA ELD Standards.

This chapter provides guidance for supporting all children's progress toward and achievement of the kindergarten and grade one CA CCSS for ELA/Literacy, and additionally for ELs, the CA ELD Standards. It begins with a brief discussion of the importance of the integrated and interdisciplinary nature of the language arts, then highlights key themes in ELA/Literacy and ELD instruction. Grade-level-specific sections provide additional guidance for transitional kindergarten, kindergarten, and grade one. Complete listings of the grade level CA CCSS for ELA/Literacy and the CA ELD Standards are provided following the kindergarten and grade one sections.

An Integrated and Interdisciplinary Approach

The CA CCSS for ELA/Literacy include strands in reading, writing, speaking and listening[1], and language. As noted in Chapter 2 of this framework, although the strands are presented separately in the standards, they are interrelated and not distinct, independent areas of the curriculum. Just as adults discuss or write about what they read in order to clarify or express their understandings, children must have opportunities to confer and write in response to text. Just as adults read to learn more about a topic under discussion or to inform their writing, children must have opportunities to engage with text to learn more about a subject of interest, investigate questions raised in discussions, and gather ideas for writing. Language is the basis for each of these communicative acts, and vocabulary and an understanding of conventions and of the purposes for using language are inseparable from reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Both the CA CCSS for ELA/Literacy and the CA ELD Standards call for an integration of reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Furthermore, both sets of standards emphasize that language conventions, vocabulary, and knowledge about how English works should not be seen as topics to be taught in isolation from meaning but rather, in ways that support meaning making and expression.

The strands of CA CCSS for ELA/Literacy and the CA ELD Standards are not only integrated among themselves, they are deeply interwoven with content learning.

[1] As noted throughout this framework, speaking and listening should be broadly interpreted to include signing and viewing for Deaf and hard-of-hearing students whose primary language is American Sign Language.

Reading, writing, speaking and listening, and language are inextricably linked to every area of the curriculum. Learning subject matter demands understanding and using its language to comprehend, clarify, and communicate concepts. The language arts are crucial tools for the acquisition of knowledge and the development of clear, effective communication across the disciplines (National Research Council 2012).

The relationship between the language arts and content learning is apparent throughout California's subject matter content standards. A few examples from kindergarten and grade one standards in various content areas include the following:

- Ask questions, based on observations, to classify different objects by their use and to identify whether they occur naturally or are human-made. (NGSS K-PS1-c)
- Use the vocabulary of theatre, such as actor, character, cooperation, setting, the five senses, and audience, to describe theatrical experiences (California Kindergarten Visual and Performing Arts Theatre Content Standard 1.1)
- Describe, extend, and explain ways to get a next element in simple repeating patterns (California's CCSS Grade One Mathematics Standard 4.1)
- Educate family and peers to protect against skin damage from the sun (California Grade One Health Standard 8.1.P)
- Describe the rights and individual responsibilities of citizenship (California Grade One History-Social Science Content Standard 1.1)

California's public school programs, including transitional kindergarten, kindergarten and grade one, ensure that reading, writing, speaking and listening, and language are taught as mutually supportive strands of the language arts and are a rich and thoughtful aspect of instruction in every subject area.

Similarly, for classrooms with ELs, the components of the CA ELD Standards – Interacting in Meaningful Ways, Learning About How English Works, and Using Foundational Literacy Skills - are integrated throughout the curriculum, rather than being addressed exclusively during Designated ELD. Vignettes and shorter snapshots of practice presented in grade level sections of this chapter illustrate how the CA CCSS for ELA/Literacy strands, CA ELD Standards, and content area instruction can be integrated to create an intellectually-rich and engaging early literacy program.

Key Themes of ELA/Literacy and ELD Instruction

This section discusses each of the five themes of California's ELA/literacy and ELD instruction described in Chapters 1-3 as they pertain to transitional kindergarten through grade one (see Figure 4.1): **meaning making**, **language development**, **effective expression**, **content knowledge**, and **foundational skills**. Impacting each of these for ELs is learning English as an additional language, and impacting all students are **motivation and engagement**, discussed in the Chapters 1 and 3 of the framework and highlighted here in Figure 4.2.

Figure 4.1. Goals, Themes, and Contexts for Implementing the CA CCSS for ELA/Literacy and the CA ELD Standards

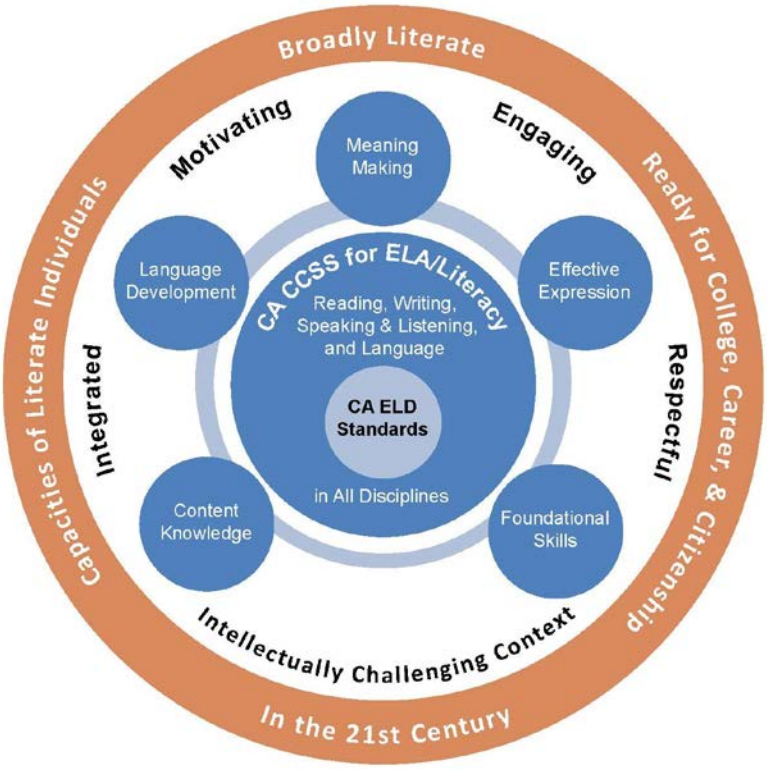


Figure 4.2. Motivation and Engagement

Educators must keep issues of motivation and engagement at the fore of their work to assist students in achieving the CA CCSS for ELA/Literacy and CA ELD Standards. The panel report *Improving Reading Comprehension in Kindergarten Through 3rd Grade* (Shanahan, and others 2010) made clear

the importance of addressing motivation and engagement in primary grade literacy programs and recommended the following practices:

- Help students discover the purpose and benefits of reading by modeling enjoyment of text and an appreciation of the information it has to offer and creating a print rich environment (including meaningful text on classroom walls and well stocked, inviting, and comfortable libraries or literacy centers that contain a range of print materials, including texts on topics relevant to instructional experiences children are having in the content areas).
- Create opportunities for students to see themselves as successful readers. Texts and tasks should be challenging, but within reach given appropriate teaching and scaffolding.
- Provide students reading choices, which includes allowing them choice on literacy-related activities, texts, and even locations in the room in which to engage with books independently. Teachers' knowledge of their students' abilities will enable them to provide appropriate guidance.
- Provide students the opportunity to learn by collaborating with their peers to read texts, talk about texts, and engage in meaningful interactions with texts, such as locating interesting information together.

Contributing to the motivation and engagement of diverse learners, including ELs, is the teachers' and the broader school community's open recognition that students' primary languages, dialects of English used in the home, and home cultures are resources to value in their own right and also to draw upon in order to build proficiency in English and in all school learning (De Jong and Harper 2011; Lindholm-Leary and Genesee 2010). Teachers can do the following:

- Create a welcoming classroom environment that exudes respect for cultural and linguistic diversity.
- Get to know students' cultural and linguistic backgrounds and how individual students interact with their primary language, home dialect, and home cultures.
- Include the primary language and home culture in instruction (e.g., through bilingual education, showing students similarities and differences between their primary language or dialect of English and the "Standard English" of school, openly affirming students' primary languages or home dialect).
- Use complex texts that accurately reflect students' cultural and social backgrounds so that students see themselves in the curriculum.
- Continuously expand their understandings of culture and language so as not to oversimplify approaches to culturally and linguistically responsive pedagogy. (For guidance on implementing culturally and linguistically responsive teaching, see Chapters 3 and 9.)

Meaning Making

Each of the kindergarten and grade one strands of the CA CCSS for ELA/Literacy make clear the attention that meaning making should receive throughout language arts instruction, as do all components of the CA ELD Standards. The CA CCSS reading standards center on meaningful interactions with literary and informational text. For example, they require children learn to ask and answer questions about the content of texts (RL/RI.K-1.1), attend to the meaning of words in texts (RL/RI.K-1.4), learn about text structures as different ways to tell stories and share information (RL/RI.K-1.1), explore the role of illustrations in contributing to text meaning (RL/RI.K-1.7), and make comparisons among events or information in one or more texts (RL/RI.K-1.9). Much of this will occur during read aloud experiences in this grade span.

The writing standards, too, reflect an emphasis on meaning. Children's writing (as dictated or independently produced) is *about something*: the expression of opinions (W.K-1.1), sharing of information (W.K-1.2), and telling of stories (W.K-1.3). Furthermore, children share their writing with others and respond to their questions and suggestions to better communicate their ideas and information in written language (W.K-1.5). In other words, writing is not simply copying text, a rote act devoid of meaning. It is using the understanding that print is meaningful and purposeful in concert with the skills that are being acquired to create and communicate ideas and information.

The speaking and listening strand also focuses on meaning. Beginning in the first years of schooling, children are taught to participate in conversations that center on the meaning of texts, media, and peers' and adults' comments (SL.K-1.1-3) as well as expressing ideas and thoughts so that others understand (SL.K-1.4-6). They ask and answer to seek and provide clarification (SL.K-1.1-3).

Language standards, too, include a focus on meaning: children determine and clarify the meaning of words and phrases based on grade-level reading-and content, and they use newly acquired language meaningfully (L.K-1.4- 6).

The CA ELD Standards also center on meaning making. Children learn to interact in meaningful ways (Part 1) through three modes of communication: collaborative, interpretive, and productive. In order to engage meaningfully with oral[2] and written texts, they continue to build their understanding of how English works (Part II) on a variety of levels: how different text types are organized and structured to achieve particular social purposes, how texts can be expanded and enriched using particular language resources, and how ideas can be connected and condensed to convey particular meanings.

In short, meaning making is a clear theme in the CA CCSS for ELA/Literacy and the CA ELD Standards at all grade levels, and the transitional kindergarten through grade one span is no exception. In the next section, guidance centers on meaning making with text.

Meaning Making with Text

In this section, which focuses on meaningful interactions with text, the terms *meaning making* and *comprehension* are used interchangeably. Many factors influence comprehension of text, including proficiency with language (especially academic language, that is, complex sentence and discourse structures and vocabulary), content knowledge, and knowledge of and skill with the alphabetic code. These are addressed briefly in Figure 4.3 and more extensively in subsequent subsections of this chapter.

Figure 4.3. Contributors to Meaning Making with Text

Many strands or clusters of standards contribute to meaning making with text.

- First are those activities that help students develop a deeper understanding of literary and informational text, such as responding to probing questions, making inferences, connecting to previous knowledge, and responding to what has been read. In the transitional kindergarten to grade one span much of this work will be done by reading to students, asking questions, and having students engage in discussion and follow-up activities. As students become more proficient in reading, a combination of read-alouds and reading text is utilized.
- A second cluster of activities that contributes to the children's ability to make meaning are those that help students understand more complex language and discourse structures (included in the term *academic language*), such as more advanced clauses, noun and verb phrases, and more complex

[2] For Deaf and hard-of-hearing students who use ASL as their primary language, the term *oral* refers to the use of sign language.

sentences. Again, much of this work with young children is done orally at first, and then it is blended with reading text.

- A third important contributor to understanding text focuses on developing students' vocabularies and knowledge of the concepts underlying these words. Students cannot understand either spoken and written text unless they know almost all the words being used and the concepts embodied in those words.
- Fourthly, and crucially, students cannot understand written text independently until they have mastered the foundational skills leading to decoding proficiency and the ability to use decoding to sound-out words until the words become automatically recognized. Eventually, students reach the magic moment when they can use those foundational skills in recognizing enough decodable and high-frequency irregular words that the written text becomes like speech and they can actually read and understand new (that is, previously unencountered) text at their level. Most students should be able to read simple text independently by mid-first grade. A significant, but by no means exclusive, focus of the work in the transitional kindergarten through grade one span will be devoted to this strand. As students become familiar with more complex spelling-sound patterns and have practiced enough words, their growing lexicon of automatically recognized words allows them to read increasingly complex text fluently and frees them to think about or enjoy what they are reading. As children progress through the grades and develop more confidence in their reading ability, they can also productively struggle with text with concept loads, vocabulary, and language structure somewhat above their level.
- Finally, how much students know about a subject and the concepts underlying words and text, has a major impact on their ability to engage meaningfully with the content of a text. Thus, material used in either oral or written form should contribute to a students' growing knowledge about the world. Moreover, a variety of interesting topics, acclaimed stories, and engaging activities can be highly motivational and greatly facilitate learning to read.

A panel of experts made clear the importance of meaning making as children engage with text in its report *Improving Reading Comprehension in Kindergarten Through 3rd Grade* (Shanahan, and others 2010, 5) by summarizing the research as follows: "students who read with understanding at an early age gain access to a broader range of texts, knowledge, and educational opportunities, *making early reading comprehension instruction particularly critical*"(italics added). In other words, young children must learn *from the start* that the purposes of written language include conveying information, sharing ideas, provoking questions, igniting curiosity, persuading, and entertaining, and they must be provided instruction that facilitates thoughtful interactions with text. Such thoughtful interactions include critical thinking, a

crucial 21st century skill (see Chapter 10). To delay instruction that targets meaning making until after children have acquired foundational skills is to ill-serve children and to ignore research. After a general discussion of comprehension of text, the topics of questioning and developing a sense of text structure will be addressed.

Drawing on the scientific evidence, the panel outlined the following five recommendations for reading comprehension instruction in kindergarten through grade three:

- Teach students how to use reading comprehension strategies to help them understand and retain what they read.
- Teach students to identify and use the text's organizational structure to comprehend, learn, and remember content.
- Guide students through focused, high-quality discussion on the meaning of text.
- Select texts purposefully to support comprehension development.
- Establish an engaging and motivating context in which to teach reading comprehension.

Further, the panel noted that "To be successful, these five recommendations must be implemented in concert, and clearly explained in a rich educational context that includes the following: a comprehensive literacy curriculum, ample opportunity for students to read and write while being coached and monitored by teachers, additional instruction and practice for students based on the results of formal and informal assessments, and adequate resources for students and teachers" (8).

The Importance of Questions and Questioning. During the transitional kindergarten through grade one span, children build skill in asking and answering questions about grade- and age-appropriate text. Both processes are related to comprehension (NICHD 2000). Teachers strategically use questions to guide and monitor children's understanding of the text. Because their purpose is to support children's understanding of text, questions should be, for the most part, text dependent, that is, ones that demand attention to the text. When teachers use predominantly text independent questions, they render engagement with the text unnecessary as children are capable of participating in discussions without having listened to or read the text. Text dependent questions guide children in attending to, thinking about, and learning

from the text. An emphasis on text dependent questions in no way suggests that children are discouraged from drawing on their experiences and understandings of the world to interpret text. In fact, this is what thinking, critical readers do.

Questions posed by teachers must include ones that extend children's text thinking beyond literal understandings of the text. Higher-level questions, those that prompt inference making, synthesis, analysis, and critical thinking, are crucial for all children to consider throughout the years of schooling, including transitional kindergarten, kindergarten, and grade one, if they are to achieve the capacities of the literate individual described in Chapter 1 as well as the 21st century skills discussed in Chapter 10 and if they are to have rich interactions with high-quality literature.

Figure 4.4 provides examples of text dependent and, for contrast, text independent questions for *Mr. Popper's Penguins* by Richard and Florence Atwater. This chapter book may serve as a read-aloud selection for kindergarteners and grade one children who are ready to engage with longer texts over a period of weeks.

Figure 4.4. Examples of Text Dependent and Independent Questions for *Mr. Popper's Penguins*

Text Dependent Questions	Text Independent Questions
Literal Comprehension Questions: • What surprising package arrived in the mail? • Why was the package sent to Mr. Popper? • What reason is suspected for Captain Cook's declining health? • What is Captain Cook's response to Greta? • How do the penguins affect the Poppers' lives? Inferential Comprehension Questions: • How do the Poppers feel about owning so many penguins? What in the book contributes you to your conclusion? • Based on the events in the story up to this point, do you think will become of the penguins and the Poppers?	Literal and Inferential Comprehension Questions: • What surprise package would you like to receive in the mail? • Have you ever seen a penguin? • What do penguins look like? • Have you been to a zoo? What animals most interested you? • Penguins are birds that cannot fly. Why do you suppose that is? • In this story, Captain Cook is sad. What are some reasons a character might be sad? • Would you like to own several penguins? Why or why not? What animals do you own?

In addition to responding to teacher-posed questions, children learn to generate their own questions as they or the teacher reads. In doing so, they actively engage with the text and comprehension is enhanced (NIHCD 2000, Shanahan, and others 2010). Teachers model asking themselves questions as they read aloud with children; they prompt children's questions by asking them at points in a selection what they want to know or what the just-read event makes them wonder; and they assist students in formulating questions. They discuss and provide examples of who, what, when, where, why, and how questions. The gradual release of responsibility model discussed in Chapter 3 of this framework may be employed.

Developing a Sense of Text Structure. As noted above, the panel examining research on improving reading comprehension in the primary grades concluded that children's ability to identify and use a text's organizational structure contributes to comprehension (Shanahan, and others 2010). Furthermore, they noted that children can develop a sense of text structure as early as kindergarten. A narrative structure is generally used for stories, including fiction and nonfiction (such as Wendy Tokuda's *Humphrey the Lost Whale: A True Story*). It typically includes an introduction to characters, a setting, a goal or problem, a plot focused on achievement of the goal or overcoming the problem, and a resolution. Informational texts are characterized by nonnarrative text structures, such as description, sequence, problem and solution, cause and effect, and compare and contrast. Certain words often signal the type of structure. For example, compare and contrast structures often employ words such as *both, different, alike, unlike, but, however*.

Beginning in the early years, children should have ample exposure to and sufficient instruction in the range of text structures with one of the goals being that they can use their knowledge of text structures to understand increasingly challenging texts in the grade span and in the years ahead. Thus, making available and engaging children as readers/listeners and writers of both literary and informational texts is crucial.

When teachers make transparent the way different text types are organized and highlight the language resources used in different texts and tasks, all children, and ELs in particular, are in a better position to comprehend the texts read to them or that they

read independently, discuss the content, and write their own texts. Children experiencing difficulty with meaning making may benefit from more instruction directed at and opportunities to engage with and practice identifying a range of text structures.

Language Development

Language plays a major role in learning. Indeed, its ongoing development is imperative if students are to achieve the goals set forth in the Chapter 1 of this framework, and it must be a central focus of schooling, in all areas of the curricula, beginning in the first years.

Both the CA CCSS for ELA/Literacy and CA ELD Standards for kindergarten and grade one reflect the importance of language development. Each strand of the CA CCSS for ELA/Literacy includes attention to language. For example, children learn to determine the meaning of words and phrases in texts in the reading strand (RL/RI.K-1.4). Children make progress toward crafting their written language (including through dictation) in such as way as to express an opinion (W.K-1.1), inform or explain (W.K-1.2), and narrate events (W.K-1.3). In doing so they employ different text structures, grammatical structures, and vocabulary. They build skill in the effective use of language as they engage in focused discussions on grade-level topics and texts (SL.K-1.1). And, they build skill in determining the meaning of words that are used in texts and in grade-level content (L.K-1.4), examining word relationships (L.K-1.5) and appropriately using new language (L.K-1.6). The CA ELD Standards in total center on building ELs' proficiency in the range of rigorous academic English language skills necessary for participation in and achievement of grade-level content. The CA ELD Standards amplify the emphasis on language development and language awareness in the CA CCSS for ELA/Literacy.

Transitional kindergarten, kindergarten, and grade one instruction places a premium on language development for all children. Because language is acquired largely through exposure to and purposeful use of language in a range of meaningful contexts, teachers establish language-rich environments for children. They model use of

broad vocabulary and varied grammatical and discourse structures as they interact with children, deliver instruction across the curriculum, and discuss classroom routines. They read aloud texts that stretch children's language, drawing attention to and commenting on interesting sentences and discourse structures and new or key vocabulary. They engage children in genuine discussions about their experiences, their interests, current events, and the curricula. They provide stimulating, social learning activities that fuel conversations. They act on the knowledge that children learn language by using it.

These opportunities for oral language are crucial for children's language development, whatever the primary/home language and language of instruction. They are also central to learning an additional language (as in the case of ELs learning English and children participating in dual immersion programs). In addition, they are vital for children who may have had limited exposure to the kind of language found in written texts (Dickinson and Smith 1994).

The CA ELD Standards highlight and amplify language development. Part I of the CA ELD Standards, Interacting in Meaningful Ways, ensures that EL children have opportunities to use English to engage in dialogue with others (Interactive mode), comprehend and analyze texts (Interpretive mode), and create oral and written texts (productive mode). Part II, Learning About How English Works, focuses on developing children's abilities to use the language resources English affords for different purposes and contexts. Students learn how language is used to create different text types (e.g., how a story is organized sequentially with predictable stages versus how an opinion is organized around a claim and justified with evidence), how descriptive vocabulary or prepositional phrases can enrich and expand their ideas (e.g., I like pizza. -> Pizza is scrumptious.), and how language can be used to combine or condense their ideas in particular ways (e.g., *She's a doctor. She's amazing. She saved the animals. -> She's the amazing doctor who saved the animals.*)

The next section focuses on vocabulary instruction. It is followed by a brief discussion of the impact of reading aloud to children on their language development. Teaching language conventions is addressed in the forthcoming section on Effective Expression.

Vocabulary Instruction

In the transitional kindergarten through grade one span, as in all grade levels, children are provided thoughtful and deliberate vocabulary instruction that involves ensuring that children have extensive experiences with language, creating a word conscious environment, teaching specific words, and teaching word-learning strategies. (See Chapter 3.) The latter two are discussed here. See the grade-level sections for additional information.

Selected words from content areas and literary and informational texts are defined and discussed at different points in the instructional cycle. Some words are best previewed before engaging with a text or content area investigation (such as those that substantially impact meaning); some are discussed at the time of use (such as those for which a quick synonym may be supplied); and some are explored in depth afterwards (such as those that are likely to be encountered in many contexts). The curriculum is designed so that children have multiple exposures to new vocabulary. For example, text sets on a grade-level topic are shared so that children experience a target word used in different texts. And, content area curriculum is well organized so that new concepts, and the accompanying vocabulary, are developed coherently and over time. In addition, teachers intentionally use the new vocabulary in written and oral interactions with children throughout the day in order to model appropriate and wide application of the words.

Students explore and build an understanding of the relationships among words and nuances in word meanings (L.K-1.5). Importantly, words are learned in an instructional context that contributes to meaning; there is a reason for learning the words: they are relevant to a text being read, the children's lives, or content under study. Words that are taught in depth are those that children need in order to develop as literate individuals.

Word-learning strategies for determining the meaning of unknown words are also part of instruction. Children use knowledge of word parts (such as the use of the prefixes *un-* and *pre-*) determine their meaning (L.K.4b and L.1.4b and c). In grade one, they also learn to use sentence-level context as a clue for meaning (L.1.4).

Reading Aloud and Language Development

One powerful way to develop young children's language is through reading aloud. Teachers in this grade span (and beyond) read aloud to their students daily from a range of texts, and they engage in discussions about the content and language of the texts. All children, especially ELs and children who have limited read aloud experiences in English at home, need access--at this grade span, through read alouds--to complex texts that contain general academic and domain-specific vocabulary, a variety of grammatical structures, and ideas worth discussing. (See Chapter 3 for definitions.)

When the texts teachers read aloud contain complex grammatical and discourse structures and academic vocabulary, children are provided access to language and content that they may not be able interact with in written form themselves. Young children--not yet fluent readers--are then free to focus their mental energy on the language and ideas presented in the text, learning the vocabulary, grammatical structures, and discourse practices along with the content knowledge, which prepares them to tackle rich and complex written texts on their own as they progress through the grades. Figures 4.5 and 4.6 present examples of the rich language found in many literary and informational texts.

Figure 4.5. Selected Academic Vocabulary and Complex Grammatical Structures from *Rumpelstiltskin* by Paul O. Zelinsky (1986)

General Academic Vocabulary	Complex Grammatical Structures
encountered impress passion slightest delighted rejoiced scarcely piteously inquiries	• Now, the king had a passion for gold, and such an art intrigued him. • There sat the poor miller's daughter, without the slightest idea how anyone could spin straw into gold. • So he led the miller's daughter to a larger room filled with straw, and he ordered her to spin this straw too before dawn, if she valued her life.

Figure 4.6. Selected Academic Vocabulary and Complex Grammatical Structures from *Surprising Sharks* by Nicola Davies (2003)

General Academic Vocabulary	Domain-Specific Vocabulary	Complex Grammatical Structures
avoid (p. 10) blend (p. 10) patterned (p. 11) replace (p. 16) basic (p. 17) sensitive (p. 20) detect (p. 21)	fins (p. 14) scales (p. 15) gill (p. 15) cartilage (p. 17) plankton (p. 22) species (p. 23)	• Inside the gill slits there is a very thin layer of skin that lets oxygen from the water get into the shark's blood, just as our lungs let oxygen from the air into our blood when we breathe. (p. 15) • Every animal has nerves, which are like cables carrying electrical messages around the body. (p. 21)

Teachers ensure that they read aloud from a wide range of books. In addition to promoting language development, exposure to myriad genres and topics contributes to children's progress toward becoming broadly literate, one of the goals of California's ELA/Literacy programs. (See Chapters 1 and 3.)

Effective Expression

In the earliest grades, children begin to make progress toward expressing themselves effectively. They use their developing language to make their wishes and opinions known. They convey information in such a way that others can understand. They ask questions to meet their cognitive (and other) needs and satisfy their curiosity. Multiple standards across the strands of reading, writing, speaking and listening, and language contribute to children's progress in effective expression. This section includes an overview of effective expression in writing, discussing, and presenting, and using grade-appropriate language conventions. Additional guidance is provided in the grade level sections of this chapter.

Writing

The writing standards reflect an emphasis on meaningful and skillful communication. Children's writing (as dictated or independently produced) is *about*

something: the expression of opinions (W.K-1.1), sharing of information (W.K-1.2), and telling of stories (W.K-1.3). Furthermore, children share their writing with others and respond to their questions and suggestions to more effectively communicate their thinking in written language (W.K-1.5). In other words, writing is not simply copying text. It is using the understanding that print is purposeful in concert with the skills that are being acquired to create and communicate, to express ideas and information--for oneself or for others.

In the transitional kindergarten through grade one span, children begin to express themselves through writing by making marks, drawing, and dictating their ideas to an adult or older student. And, they begin to use the alphabetic code as their own tool for their own purposes. (See Chapter 5 for a discussion of spelling development.) Children are taught and observe that writing is about conveying meaning, and that written language is the communicative mode by which to both learn about their world (through reading) and to express their thoughts and, if they wish, to make them available for others to read (through writing). Young children find satisfaction in their increasing abilities to express themselves in print.

During the early years of schooling, children are provided many exemplars of high-quality written language, including through the texts they are exposed to and though the models provided by their teacher who writes with and for them on a daily basis. They examine the author's craft (RL/RI.K-1.4-9). Children make progress toward developing and organizing their ideas in writing. They, with more or less assistance depending upon the complexity of the task relative to their skills, compose different types of text: opinion, informative/explanatory, and narrative texts (W.K-1.1-3). They learn to add details to strengthen their writing (W.K-1.5). With guidance and support, they produce and publish their literary and informational writing in a variety of formats, sometimes with the use of technology (W.K-1.6).

In the transitional kindergarten through grade one span, children have many opportunities to write in a range of contexts, for a range of purposes and audiences, and in a range of formats. They write in every content area. They learn that writing is a powerful skill that can provide an outlet for personal expression and reflection and that it

can serve to entertain, inform, or influence others. Children utilize their developing writing skills to pursue their goals as learners and as members of a community.

The CA ELD Standards serve as a guide to support ELs' achievement toward effective expression in writing. They highlight and amplify skills that contribute to writing: Children learn about how texts are structured, how to expand ideas, and how to connect ideas to create a richer text.

Discussing

The speaking and listening strand emphasizes skillful and meaningful informal and formal communication with peers and adults. Beginning in the first years of schooling, children work toward developing their abilities to communicate clearly with others. They participate in discussions that center on texts and topics and they learn to ask and answer questions to clarify understanding (SL.K-1.1-3). They communicate their understandings and ideas as they engage in one-on-one, small-group, and whole-class discussions. Teachers ensure that children converse with diverse partners and they teach children how to take turns, build on one another's ideas, and ask for and provide clarification as needed. Teachers implement a variety of discussion structures to ensure equitable participation. Importantly, they provide interesting, intellectually stimulating environments that promote conversations about academic topics. Teachers of young children recognize the crucial role they play in their students' continuum of learning toward--years later--achievement of the College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards for Speaking and Listening in Comprehension and Collaboration (CCR.SL.1-3).

Four factors contribute to the success of young children's discussion of text, according to a research panel (Shanahan, and others 2010, 23-28). Two are related to planning and two are related to sustaining and expanding the discussion. In terms of planning, the panel recommends that teachers:

- Ensure that texts are compelling enough to spark discussion; in other words, the topic should be interesting to the children and the discussion should be worth having
- Prepare higher-order questions that prompt children to think more deeply about the text

In terms of sustaining and expanding discussions, the panel recommends that teachers:

- Ask follow-up questions to encourage and facilitate the discussion
- Provide opportunities, with ample scaffolding, for children to engage in peer-led discussions

As citizens of the 21st century, children begin to engage in discussions with others well beyond the local setting. For example, teachers may facilitate online interactive video calls with partner classrooms in another country.

Presenting

Even in the earliest grades, children begin to build skill toward the effective presentation of knowledge and ideas that is important in their educations, careers, and lives in the years ahead (SL.K-1.4-6). Presenting demands both more formal language use than discussion and a heightened awareness of audience. Presenting typically includes thoughtful preparation, especially in terms of organization of ideas or points. Children are given many opportunities, with age-appropriate guidance and support, to present for small and large groups during the transitional kindergarten through grade one span--often (but not exclusively) in the form of “sharing.” Importantly, children are taught how to respond positively, respectfully, and actively as listeners.

Presentations should be of interest to both the speakers and the listeners, and children should have choices in what they wish to present. Furthermore, presenting should be a psychologically safe and affirming experience for all children.

Some presentations, such as small group presentations of songs or poetry, may be recorded and shared virtually, with appropriate permissions, with broad audiences.

Using Language Conventions

One aspect of effective expression is the use of language conventions. Young children differ in their knowledge of and exposure to the conventions of standard English and teachers must teach conventions explicitly and gently guide young children toward their use in both written and spoken expression. It is important to note that grammar and its usage rarely develop in a linear path, and that former “errors” may reappear as children synthesize new grammatical and usage knowledge with their current knowledge.

Among the language conventions are that children make strides in spelling knowledge. During the span, children:

- Write a letter or letters for most consonant and short-vowel sounds (phonemes). (L.K.2c)
- Spell simple words phonetically, drawing on knowledge of sound-letter relationships (L.K.2d)
- Use conventional spelling for words with common spelling patterns and for frequently occurring irregular words (L.1.2d)
- Spell untaught words phonetically, drawing on phonemic awareness and spelling conventions. (L.1.2e)

See the grade level sections for more information. See also Chapter 5 for a discussion of spelling development.

Content Knowledge

Content knowledge is largely the purview of other frameworks and model curriculum published by the California Department of Education. A few examples are the History-Social Science Framework, Health Framework, Visual and Performing Arts Framework, and the Education and the Environment Initiative Curriculum. However, given the reciprocal relationship between content knowledge and literacy and language development and the call for integration of the curricula, a discussion is included in this framework.

Decades of research indicate that knowledge contributes to reading and writing achievement. The more an individual knows about a topic, the more success he or she will have engaging meaningfully with text and others about the topic. Furthermore, knowledge of subject matter is accompanied by, indeed, cannot be separated from, language development. Words, sentences structures, and discourse structures differ across subject matter (Shanahan and Shanahan 2012) and so content learning

contributes to the development of language, especially academic language. In short, content knowledge facilitates literacy and language development.

On the other hand, literacy and language development provide students with the tools to independently access, acquire, and construct domain and general world knowledge. The more skilled children are in the language arts (that is, reading, writing, speaking and listening), the more they can learn about the world.

Two points about content area instruction are crucial. First, content area instruction must be given adequate time in the school day, including during the earliest years of schooling. Second, content area instruction should include attention to literacy and language development in the subject matter.

Three aspects of the ELA/Literacy instruction that support content learning are discussed here. These include wide reading, interactions with informational texts, and engagement with research.

Wide Reading

Interactions with texts contribute to knowledge (Cunningham and Stanovich 1998). Indeed, the more individuals read, the more knowledge they acquire. This knowledge, in turn, supports further literacy and language achievement. Children's exposure to a wide range of texts occurs, in transitional kindergarten through grade one, largely through an adult reading aloud a broad, and cohesive, selection of texts. As children achieve some independence with text, teachers encourage their individual engagement with texts on a daily basis while continuing to read aloud. They ensure that each child interacts with a range of materials on a range of topics. (See Chapter 3 for a discussion of wide and independent reading.)

Teachers should be well versed in high-quality children's literature of all genres; each genre, including fiction, can contribute to children's knowledge. They should have ample selections, in English and in the languages of the children, available to share with children, both as read alouds and for independent exploration. Recommendations can be exchanged with families. Colleagues, librarians, families, and communities are good resources of materials for classroom teachers. Wide reading begins early and contributes to children's progress toward being broadly literate, one of the goals for California's children (displayed in the outer ring of Figure 4.1).

Engaging with Informational Text

The CA CCSS for ELA/Literacy include ten standards in the reading strand that focus on reading informational text (RI.K-1.1-10). This reflects the importance of children's need to build skill with this genre. Informational text is an important source of knowledge. However, engaging with informational texts, though crucial, should not replace the learning experiences and investigations that are essential aspects of content instruction. It should complement them.

During the transitional kindergarten through grade one span, about half of the texts children engage with (including those read aloud by teachers) are informational texts. Informational texts are different from narrative texts in several ways, placing different demands on the reader (Duke 2000). Informational texts convey disciplinary knowledge, such as concepts and content in history/social studies, science, and the arts, and are characterized by use of domain-specific and general academic vocabulary. In addition, informational texts often employ features not found in most narratives: tables of contents, glossaries, diagrams, charts, bolded text, and headings. Furthermore, informational texts make use of organizational structures different than the story grammar (setting, characters, problem or goal, sequence of events, resolution) used in most narratives, such as cause-effect, problem-solution, and compare-contrast. Experiences with informational texts provide children familiarity with a genre that predominates later schooling and careers. The important role of informational text in curriculum and instruction was recognized in California's 2007 *Reading/Language Arts Framework for California Public Schools* and it continues in this framework.

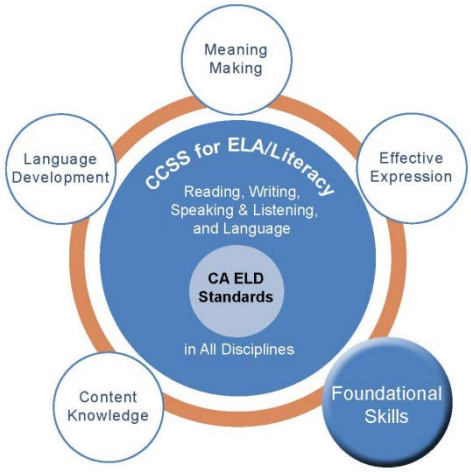
Informational texts capitalize on young children's natural curiosity in their world, and their use is fundamental to building children's competence with a variety of genres as well as to building their knowledge of the world and content knowledge. To support the former, instruction is provided that addresses the features and structures of the texts. To support the latter, a coherent program of informational text interactions is implemented. That is, informational texts are not selected randomly. They are shared on the basis of children's interests and grade-level content standards, topics, and themes. If children show an interest in reptiles, for example, teachers share and make available

many texts about reptiles, thus building children's knowledge of the subject, including its language. Some texts are read aloud by the teacher due to their more challenging nature and some are read, with instructional support, by children in small or large groups, or independently. At the same time, teachers deliberately select informational texts that contribute to the grade-level science, social studies, and other curricula. For example, one goal in the visual arts curriculum for California's kindergarteners is that children explore principles of design. When these concepts are introduced and developed, teachers share informational texts that reinforce and extend understanding, such as Mark Gonyea's *A Book About Design: Complicated Doesn't Make it Good*. The more children learn about their worlds, through hands on experiences, discussions, and text interactions, the more they benefit as future readers in general and as learners in content areas.

Engaging in Research

Starting as transitional kindergarteners, children participate in shared research projects that may be completed in a single day or that extend over several days or even longer (W.K-1.7). They work in collaboration with peers, with ample guidance from an adult, to pursue topics of interest, seeking information from a variety of sources, including texts (digital and paper), media, peers, and adults. They synthesize the information and are provided opportunities to share their knowledge with others. Engaging in research projects contributes to children's knowledge. In addition, the collaborative nature of research projects, in which children interact in meaningful ways with their peers about the rich content they are learning, promotes language development. Children express themselves, attend carefully to what their peers are saying, interpret information from texts and other resources, and write or create a product that conveys their understanding of the content. Speaking and Listening Standards of the CA CCSS for ELA/Literacy and the collaborative, interpretive, and productive skills outlined in the CA ELD Standards are richly employed in joint research projects. Likewise, standards in the writing strand are addressed when children record their questions, processes, and findings in writing.

606 **Foundational Skills**



607 Careful, systematic attention is given to
608 development of the foundational skills during the
609 early years, as these skills play an critical role in
610 reading success (Brady 2012, NICHD 2000) and the
611 achievement of the capacities of literate individuals
612 described in the Chapter 1 of this framework. The
613 CA CCSS for ELA/Literacy foundational standards
614 and the Part III of the CA ELD Standards (Using
615 Foundational Literacy Skills) are directed toward
616 fostering children's understanding and working knowledge of concepts of print, the
617 alphabetic principle, and other basic conventions of the English writing system.
618 Foundational skills are not an end in and of themselves; rather, they are vital
619 components of an effective, comprehensive reading program designed to develop
620 independent and proficient readers with the capacity to comprehend texts across a
621 range of types and disciplines. This section addresses foundational skills instruction in
622 English. For guidance on teaching foundational skills in Spanish, see the Spanish
623 translation for the CA CCSS for ELA/Literacy (Common Core en Español). Guidance on
624 teaching foundational skills in other languages, including American Sign Language, is
625 forthcoming.

626 Acquisition of the foundational skills of reading is essential for independence with
627 printed language. (See Figure 4.7.) During the transitional kindergarten through grade
628 one span, children develop concepts about print and achieve phonemic awareness, the
629 most difficult level of phonological awareness (RF.K-1.1-2). They develop phonics skills,
630 learning sound-symbol correspondences and how to use that knowledge to decode
631 words (RF.K-1.3). They make great strides in fluency as they develop automaticity with
632 word recognition (RF.K-1.4). When provided supports, accommodations, and research-
633 based instruction, students with disabilities can master foundational literacy skills. An
634 overview of each of the foundational skills is presented here. Grade-level specific
635 guidance is provided in the grade-level sections.
636

Figure 4.7. Independence with the Code

A major goal of early reading instruction is to teach children the skills that allow them to become independent readers. Children learn to effortlessly recognize a growing number of words so that they are able to read increasingly challenging material and automatically recognize approximately 95% of the words in the text, freeing them to think about what is being read. It also means students have mastered the skill of decoding new words so that they can sound out the small number of new words in a given text to start the process of making them automatically recognized and adding them to the list of words read effortlessly.

By sounding out or decoding a new word (either blending sound by sound or through continuous blending) a child connects the letters or letter combinations with the sounds they represent and is able to combine those sounds into a recognizable spoken word with its attendant meaning. (Of course, this spoken word must already be in the child's vocabulary). Once a word is decoded several times this sound, symbol, meaning package becomes established and from then on, when the word is encountered in print, the meaning is automatically understood the way a familiar spoken word is understood.

Assuring that by mid-first grade each student knows how to decode or sound out new words is crucial to becoming an independent reader. What does it take to decode? First, the student must know the alphabetic principle and be able to use it to generate sounds from the various categories of sound/symbol relationships in the English language starting from easy to more complex. Sequences of letter-sound instruction usually start with simple letters and the common letter sound, long and short single vowels, consonant/vowel/consonant words, long vowels with an ending e, consonant blends, diphthongs, and the various ways to represent sounds from high frequency to rarer until by second grade all patterns and the sounds they generate are recognized. Secondly, most students need to learn how to decode or sound out new words and need much practice in decoding new words representing the letter-sound patterns they have already learned. Students also need to learn to automatically recognize a significant list of high-frequency words with either irregular or uncommon spelling-sound patterns where decoding is less useful. They need to expand their vocabularies so that more words can be recognized automatically by being decoded and understood. Finally, learning how to spell the words which are made up of the spelling-sound patterns being introduced can also reinforce learning the alphabetic principle.

What is tricky about this process in English is that unlike more transparent and regular languages such as Spanish, English is much more linguistically complex. For example, English has approximately 43 sounds but only 26 letters so some sounds must be represented by letter combinations such as *th* or *sh*; whereas in Spanish there are just about the same number of sounds as letters. Secondly, in English one letter, such as the letter a, can represent more than one sound; in Spanish one letter is used to represent one sound. Finally, in English there can be several ways of representing a sound such as the long sound *a* (for example, *fate, bait, way, hey, straight, freight*) and some combinations can represent different sounds in different words such as the *ough* in *tough, through*, and *ought*. This complexity can be confusing for many students and is the reason why instruction should start with simple patterns and build

to the more complex ones as students develop the idea of how the alphabetic principle is used in decoding words. This strategy makes the words used in beginning reading instruction more regular and similar to the more transparent languages (in which most students have a much easier time mastering the alphabetic principle than in English).

Print Concepts

Concepts about print are understandings about the organization and basic features of written English. Children learn the directionality of written English, that spoken words are represented by specific sequences of letters and that written words are separated by spaces, upper and lower letters of the alphabet, and distinguishing features of sentences (RF.K-1.1a-d). Some of the concepts about print standards are related to phonics and word recognition standards (whereby children learn letter-sound correspondences, for example) and language standards (whereby children learn to print letters, for example). See the grade level sections for further discussion.

Phonological Awareness

Phonological awareness is the awareness of and ability to manipulate the sound units in spoken language. It includes attending to syllables, onsets and rimes, or phonemes, the smallest unit of sound in a spoken language. Figure 4.8 provides information about these units.

It is essential that children develop phonological awareness early in the elementary school years, with the goal of attaining phonemic awareness, the most difficult and important level, by the end of grade one, if not well before. The reason phonemic awareness development is crucial is that English is predominantly an alphabetic orthography, one in which written symbols represent phonemes. Children are best positioned to understand the logic of and gain independence with the English written system when they are aware that spoken language consists of phonemes. The relationship between phonemic awareness and success in reading acquisition is well documented (NIHCD 2000).

666 Figure 4.8. Phonological Units of Speech

Phonological Unit	Definition	Example
Syllable* *The six syllable types in English are described in Chapter 4.	A unit of speech consisting of one uninterrupted vowel sound which may or may not be flanked by one or more consonants; uttered with a single impulse of the voice	The spoken word *man* has one syllable: /man/ *going* has two syllables: /go/-/ing/ *computer* has three syllables: /com/-/pu/-/ter/ *information* has four syllables: /in/-/for/-/ma/-/tion/
Onset	The part of a spoken syllable (consonant or blend) that precedes the vowel. Some syllables do not have an onset.	/bl/ in the spoken word *black* /st/ in *stop* /r/ in *run* There is no onset in the syllable *on.*
Rime	The part of a spoken syllable that includes the vowel and any consonants that follow. All syllables have a rime because all syllables have a vowel sound.	/og/ in *dog* /on/ in *on* /and/ in *sand*
Phoneme	The smallest unit of sound in speech. English consists of about 43 phonemes.**	/p/ /ă/ and /n/ in *pan* /th/ /r/ and /ē/ in *three* /ŭ/ and /p/ in *up*

667

668 **The number of phonemes in English identified by linguists varies depending upon the
669 phonetic description used (Moats 2000). Figure 4.9 provides 43 commonly identified
670 English phonemes. Other languages have more of fewer--and sometimes different--
671 phonemes.

672

673 Figure 4.9. 43 English Phonemes

Symbol	As heard in…	Symbol	As heard in…
/ā/	**a**ngel, r**ai**n	/g/	**g**ift, do**g**
/ă/	c**a**t, **a**pple	/h/	**h**appy, **h**at
/ē/	**ea**t, s**ee**d	/j/	**j**ump, bri**dg**e
/ĕ/	**e**cho, r**e**d	/l/	**l**ip, fa**ll**
/ī/	**i**sland, l**igh**t	/m/	**m**other, ho**m**e

/ĭ/	**i**n, s**i**t	/n/	**n**ose, o**n**
/ō/	**oa**tmeal, b**o**ne	/p/	**p**encil, **p**o**p**
/ŏ/	**o**ctopus, m**o**m	/r/	**r**ain, ca**r**e
/ŭ/	**u**p, h**u**m	/s/	**s**oup, fa**c**e
/o͞o/	**oo**dles, m**oo**n	/t/	**t**ime, ca**t**
/o͝o/	p**u**t, b**oo**k	/v/	**v**ine, o**f**
/ə/	**a**bove, sof**a**	/wh/	**wh**at, **wh**y
/oi/, /oy/	**oi**l, b**oy**	/w/	**w**et, **w**ind
/ou/, /ow/	**ou**t, c**ow**	/y/	**y**es, be**y**ond
/aw/, /ô/	**aw**ful, c**au**ght	/z/	**z**oo, becau**s**e
är	c**ar,** f**ar**	/th/	**th**ing, heal**th**
ôr	f**our, or**	/th/	**th**is, bro**th**er
ûr	h**er,** b**ir**d**,** t**ur**n	/sh/	**sh**out, ma**ch**ine
/b/	**b**a**b**y, cri**b**	/zh/	plea**s**ure, vi**s**ion
/k/	**c**up, sti**ck**	/ch/	**ch**ildren, scra**tch**
/d/	**d**og, en**d**	/ng/	ri**ng**, fi**ng**er
/f/	**p**hone, gol**f**		

From Yopp, H. K., and Yopp (2011)

Phonological awareness develops along a multidimensional continuum (Phillips, and others 2008), which should be considered in the design of a sequence of instruction. Generally, children learn to attend to and manipulate larger size units before smaller units. Although less a phonological than a meaningful unit of speech, children develop the concept of a word. The general progression of phonological skills, from least to most difficult, are as follows (CCSSO/NGA Appendix A 2010):

- Rhyme recognition
- Repetition and creation of alliteration
- Syllable counting or identification
- Onset and rime manipulation
- Phoneme manipulation

In addition, sound units can be manipulated a number of ways. The general progression, from least to most difficult, is as follows:

- Sound unit identity

- Sound unit isolation
- Sound unit blending
- Sound unit segmentation
- Sound unit addition
- Sound unit substitution
- Sound unit deletion

Finally, the type of sounds determines the ease or difficulty with which they can be manipulated. Continuous sounds (such as /mmmmmm/ and /sssssss/ are generally easier to manipulate than stops (such as /p/ and /t/).

Instruction should be sequenced in accordance with these progressions; however, teachers recognize that children do not necessarily develop phonological skills in this order. They may be able to isolate the initial phoneme in their names, for example, before they are able to engage in onset and rime segmentation. Teachers provide direct instruction in phonological awareness as well as a language rich environment that includes frequent explicit play with sounds through songs, games, and books. They are responsive to children's spontaneous manipulations of sounds. They monitor children's progress closely and provide additional support to individuals as needed.

Phonics and Word Recognition

During transitional kindergarten through grade one, children make great strides in their ability to independently access print. They acquire sight words, such as words that are important in their lives and environment (for example, names of significant others and classroom labels) and common high-frequency words, some of which are irregularly spelled words (for example, *they, said, was*). They become familiar with the purposes of English symbols and they learn how the alphabetic code works. They build skill in using that knowledge to decode words they do not recognize by sight, and they begin to develop automaticity (the ability to recognize a word or series of words effortlessly and rapidly) with print. Instruction is systematic and explicit, and new learning is applied to words in isolation and in text.

Phonics and word recognition skills are a significant focus of the early years as development of these skills provides children with access to written language. Children

721 who learn the alphabetic system reap notable benefits: They can devote their mental
722 energy to comprehension and therefore experience the joy and satisfaction of
723 independent engagement with text. They can access a wide variety of texts; wide
724 reading contributes to further skill development, vocabulary enrichment, and content
725 acquisition (Brady 2012). Research indicates that children have better future prospects
726 as readers if they develop understandings about and facility with the alphabetic code by
727 the end of second grade (Moats 2012), which makes progress in the prior grades
728 important.

729 Figure 4.10 provides definitions of key phonics and word recognition terminology.
730 Included are terms related to morphology, that is morphemes and other linguistic units
731 that contribute to the meaning of a word. These are included here because knowledge
732 of morphology contributes to children's ability to recognize a word.

733

734 Figure 4.10. Phonics and Word Recognition, including Morphology, Terminology

Term	Definition	Example
Consonant	A phoneme that is articulated with partial or complete closure of the vocal track	*/b/* in *boy* */t/* in *at* */r/* and */n/* in *run*
Short Vowel	An open phoneme (that is, one for which there is no obstruction by the tongue, lips, or teeth of air flow); short vowels are lax in that there is little tension in the vocal cords	*/ă/* in *cat* */ĕ/* in *jet* */ĭ/* in *kick* */ŏ/* in *stop* */ŭ/* in *cup* */o͝o/* in *book*
Long Vowel	An open phoneme; long vowels are tense in that they are spoken with more tension in the tongue muscles	*/ā/* in *cake* */ē/* in *feet* */ī/* in *night** */ō/* in *boat* */ū/* in *use* */o͞o/* in *school*
Diphthong	A vowel sound that involves the shifting of mouth position when spoken	*/oi/* in *boil; oy* in *toy* */ou/* in *out; ow* in *cow*
Consonant	Two or three adjacent consonants in a syllable,	*/tw/* in *twin*

Blend	each of which is heard	*/sk/* in *mask* */str/* in *street*
Consonant Digraph	Two or more consonants that together represent a single sound	*sh* in *ship* *ch* in *chin* and *tch* in *watch* *th* in *this* (voiced /th/) and *thin* (unvoiced /th/) [Others are *ph, wh, ng, gh*]
Grapheme	The letter or combination of letters that represent a single sound (phoneme)	*f* in *leaf* *oa* in *boat* *igh* in *night* *ough* in *through*
Morpheme	The smallest meaningful part of a word	*cat* *cat-s* *un-happy*
Affix	A morpheme attached to the beginning or end of a root	See prefixes, suffixes, and inflectional endings.
Prefix	An affix attached to the beginning of a root word	*re* in *redo* *un* in *unkind* *pre* in *preschool*
Suffix	Affix attached to the end of a root word	*less* in *useless* *ful* in *helpful*
Inflectional Ending	A morpheme added to the end of a root word to indicate: • tense • number • comparison • person	*ed* in *jumped; ing* in *flying* *s* in *dogs* and *es* in *wishes* *er* in *faster; est* in *hardest* *s* in *plays*
Decodable Words	Words that are wholly decodable on the basis of the letter-sound and spelling-sound correspondences already taught	Assuming the relevant letter-sound and spelling-sound correspondences have been taught: *dog* *run* *ship*
Sight Words	Words that are read automatically on sight because they are familiar to the reader	words read automatically, perhaps including a child's name, words special to a child (such as *mother*

		and *father*), words frequently seen in the environment, decodable words read many times, high-frequency words read many times
Irregularly-Spelled High Frequency Words	High frequency words that are not decodable in that the letter-sound or spelling-sound correspondences are uncommon or do not conform to phonics rules	*said* *of* *was* *come*

*The long /ī/ sound is classified by some as a diphthong.

During the grade span, phonics and word recognition instruction focuses on knowledge of letter-sound correspondences and, during grade one, use of that knowledge to decode regular one- and two-syllable words (that is, those that follow basic patterns). General guidelines for teaching letter-sound correspondences and early decoding follow; however, it is important to note that children and their prior experiences with print at home, in their communities, and in other educational settings vary and so the generalizations presented here may have more or less applicability to individual children. The generalizations may be most helpful with children who are experiencing difficulty learning letter-sound correspondences and basic decoding.

- Capitalize on children's knowledge of letter names. Letter-sound correspondences are generally more difficult to learn in cases where the letter name does not contain the relevant phoneme (letter sound). For example, the letter name "h" is not pronounced with the sound /h/. Likewise, the pronunciation of the letter name "w" provides no clue to the corresponding sound, /w/. Easier to learn are letter sound correspondences for letters in which the name of the letter contains the sound. Furthermore, there is evidence that letters for which the letter sound is heard in the initial position of the corresponding letter names are easier than those for which the letter sound is heard in the final position. For example, the letter name "b" is pronounced /**b**ē/, "z" is /**z**ē/, and "k" is /**k**ā/. The sounds are heard in the initial position of the letter name. In contrast, the letter name "m" is pronounced /ĕ**m**/ and "f" is pronounced /ĕ**f**/. The former--sounds in the initial

position of the letter name--are generally easier to learn than the latter (Treiman, Pennington, Shriberg, and Boada 2008).

- Avoid distorting sounds. For example, the phoneme /m/ is pronounced mmm, not *muh*.
- Separate the introduction of letter-sound correspondences that are easily confused visually or auditorily, such as /p/, /b/, /v/ and /ĕ/, /ĭ/.
- Teach high-utility letter sounds early in the sequence (for example, /m/, /s/, /ă/, /t/). These are ones that can be used to form many beginning one-syllable words.
- Include a few short vowels early in the sequence so that students can use letter-sound knowledge to form and decode words.
- Introduce several continuous sounds early (for example, /l/, /r/, /s/) because they can be elongated easily and so facilitate blending. Stop sounds (for example, /p/, /t/, /k/), more difficult in the initial position, may be used in the final position of words.
- Introduce simple word reading as soon children have learned a small number of letter-sound correspondences. Generally, begin with one-syllable words (containing letter sounds that have been taught) that have a continuous sound in the initial position, such as VC (vowel-consonant) words, such as *am* and *on* (all vowel sounds are continuous), and CVC (consonant-vowel-consonant) words, such as *rat* and *fun*, because continuous sounds can be elongated, making them easier to blend with subsequent sounds.
- Target words that represent vocabulary and concepts with which the children are familiar.
- Teach blending, either sound-by-sound (blending the first sound in a word with the next, then blending that unit with the next sound) or continuously (pronouncing each sound, one after the other, in a word), then saying the whole word. In both cases, blending will be supported if continuous sounds are elongated and no sounds are distorted with the addition of “uh” (as in /duh/).

Children should have ample opportunities to read decodable text during the first years of schooling. Decodable texts are those that make use of already-learned sight words (including high-frequency words) and, importantly and most prominently, words

that consist of the letter-sound correspondences the children have already learned. For example, *fish* is not a decodable word until the children have learned that the letter "f" represents the phoneme /f/, the letter "i" often represents the short vowel /ĭ/, the consonant digraph "sh" represents the phoneme /sh/, and they have had practice blending phonemes. The value of decodable texts is time-limited but very important for many children. These books provide children the opportunity to apply and practice what they are learning about the alphabetic code, which enhances their reading acquisition (Cheatham and Allor 2012). The amount of time devoted to decodable text will depend upon how quickly children grasp the code. Some children will need more practice with decodable books than other children. Some children will need very little practice with decodable books and they should be provided texts that reflect their skills.

Importantly, decoding involves the matching the product of attempts at sounding and blending a word with words that already exist in children's phonological or semantic memories (Cunningham, J. and others, 1999; Cunningham, P. 1975-76). In other words, as children learn to decode, they should be taught match possible pronunciations of a printed word with their lexicon to determine the likely pronunciation. For example, the "ow" spelling can represent more than one sound:

- /ō/ as in *shown*, *blown*, and *grown*
- /ow/ as in *clown*, *brown*, and *down*

When children attempt to decode the word *frown*, they might reasonably sound and blend /f/-/r/-/ō/-/n/. Not recognizing the resulting word, they might try another reasonable possibility, /f/-/r/-/ow/-/n/. When children know reading is a meaning making act, they expect to match the product of their efforts with a word in their memories. In other words, they expect to generate a word that is meaningful. Thus, initial decoding instruction should target words in children's vocabularies. Children also learn to use context to confirm or self-correct word recognition (RF.1-5.4c). Automaticity with these decoding processes comes with skill acquisition and practice.

Instruction in phonics and word recognition closely complements and coincides with instruction in other strands and domains of the CA CCSS for ELA/Literacy, including concepts about print, phonological awareness, and fluency. In addition, learning to spell contributes to progress in decoding as children encode language; that

is, as they work to put their thoughts in printed language. And, instruction in phonics and word recognition supports, and is supported by, children's acquisition of vocabulary.

It is important to note that letter-sound correspondences are not accessible to all students. Spoken and signed languages are less likely to share formal properties, such as phonological structure, than two spoken languages (Stokoe, Croneberg, and Casterline 1965; Brentari 2007). Deaf readers need to be able to recode the print into the signed language that they use (Andrews and Mason 1986) and vice versa. Deaf and hard-of-hearing students need to understand the metalinguistic structure of American Sign Language, and then apply this understanding to the structure of English. For example, deaf students who use a visual language learn that fingerspelling is a critical link in word learning (Nykaza and Schick 2007) . Because there is not a direct relationship between American Sign Language and English text, teachers need to employ documented strategies that have shown to be effective in making this connection.

Fluency

Fluency is the ability to read with accuracy, appropriate rate, and prosody (that is, expression, which includes rhythm, phrasing, and intonation). Fluency develops when children have multiple opportunities to practice a skill. Decodable books provide the opportunity for beginning readers, and wide reading provides the opportunity as children gain independence with the code.

Although fluency is important when children read aloud written text (including their own) for an audience, such as their peers or family members, *the primary importance of fluency is that it supports comprehension*: Children who are fluent, automatic decoders have the mental energy to attend to meaning making. Children work toward fluency with grade-level text in the context of purposeful and meaningful reading activities, and because they read for meaning, they are guided by the teacher to use context to confirm or self-correct word recognition (RF.1.4c). Time is provided for independent reading, and children and their families are encouraged to read at home.

Teachers should carefully assess their EL children in both their home/primary language and in English to ensure that they receive appropriate instruction and that valuable instructional time is not wasted. For example, if EL children have developed

particular aspects of phonological awareness, concepts about print, or decoding skills in their home/primary language, these understandings can be transferred to English with appropriate instruction (August and Shanahan 2006, Bialystok 1997, DeJong 2002, Lopéz and Tashakkori 2004), rather than re-teaching the skills in English. Children's proficiency in their primary language and the similarities and differences between the primary language and English affect this transfer.

EL children need targeted instruction in foundational skills that are different between their home/primary language and English. For example, many languages do not have the sound that is equivalent to the short a (/ă/) sound in English. Teachers should draw children's attention to differences such as this and also accept children's approximate pronunciations as they practice orally blending or reading words containing the new phonemes. *Pronunciation differences due to native language or dialect influences should not be misunderstood as decoding problems.* In addition, great care should be taken to ensure that EL students understand the importance of making meaning when practicing fluent decoding skills.

Deaf ELs who do not have auditory access to spoken language face challenges when asked to verbally pronounce words because they cannot hear themselves or spoken language models in their environment. Rather than focus on the pronunciation of words, teachers should monitor deaf EL students' comprehension of the words through American Sign Language as they are reading.

In general, the development of foundational literacy skills should be addressed during ELA instruction, and teachers should take into account the factors outlined above when designing instruction. During designated ELD instruction, foundational literacy practices, strategies, and skills that children are learning should be reinforced. However, for the most part, designated ELD instructional time should be devoted to developing the academic vocabulary, grammar, and discourse practices children need for comprehending and conveying understanding of ELA and other disciplinary content and provided in meaningful ways through speaking, listening, writing, and reading in grade-level appropriate ways.

English Language Development in the Grade Span

The key content and instructional practices described above are important for all children, but they are critical for EL children to develop English language proficiency and fully participate in an intellectually rich curriculum across the disciplines. This development depends on highly skilled teachers who understand not only the core instructional practices in transitional kindergarten through grade one, but also how to identify and address the particular language and academic learning strengths and needs of their EL students. In order to support the simultaneous development of English, content knowledge, and the ability to express content knowledge effectively, teachers must consider how EL children learn English as an additional language, how to meet these needs throughout the day during ELA and other content areas (through integrated ELD), and how to focus on these needs strategically during a time specifically designated for this purpose (through designated ELD). (For an extended discussion on integrated and designated English language development, see Chapter 3.)

The CA ELD Standards serve a guide for teachers to design both integrated ELD and designated ELD. They highlight and amplify the language in the CA CCSS for ELA/Literacy that is critical for children in transitional kindergarten through grade one to develop in order to maintain a steady academic and linguistic trajectory. They set goals and expectations for how EL children at various levels of English language proficiency interact with content and use English in meaningful ways while they continue to develop English as an additional language. These expectations help teachers target their ELs' instructional needs.

Integrated and Designated English Language Development

Integrated ELD refers to ELD throughout the day and across the disciplines for all ELs. In integrated ELD, the CA ELD Standards are used in ELA and in all disciplines in addition to the CA CCSS for ELA/Literacy and other content standards to support ELs' linguistic and academic progress. Throughout the school day, ELs in transitional kindergarten through grade one should engage in activities where they listen to, read, interpret, discuss, and create a variety of literary and informational text types. Through rich experiences that are provided through English, they develop English. They build confidence and proficiency in demonstrating their content knowledge through oral

presentations, writing/creating, collaborative conversations, and using multimedia. In addition, when teachers support their students' development of *language awareness*, or their knowledge of how English works in different situations, EL children gain an understanding of how the purpose of language is to make meaning and how English offers many different "resources" to make meaning. Through these intellectually rich activities that occur across the disciplines and throughout the day, EL children develop proficiency in understanding and using increasingly advanced levels of English.

For EL children in transitional kindergarten through first grade, the importance of enhancing language and literacy skills, as well as content knowledge through teacher read alouds of complex texts, shared book reading, singing songs and chanting poems and rhymes, drama (including readers' theater) where children act out characters, and other engaging and playful ways of using English cannot be overemphasized. Shared book reading experiences where children read along with the teacher (also known as dialogic reading or interactive shared book reading) are designed to simulate the parent-child at-home reading experience. In shared book reading the children interact with an experienced reader, often a teacher, around a text. The experienced reader reads aloud to children using texts large enough that everyone can see (e.g., big books, poems on chart paper) so that they can follow along visually and simultaneously hear a fluent reading of the text. Children are encouraged to participate in the reading of the text by asking and answering questions, reading along out loud chorally, retelling the text, or offering alternate endings, for example.

Teacher read alouds of complex literary and informational texts that include rich discussions about the content of the texts are critical for EL children. Teacher read alouds are also one of the best ways to develop general academic and domain specific vocabulary. For example, when a general academic word appears for a more conversational one (e.g., when words like *extraordinary*, *magnificent,* or *spectacular* are used instead of *good*), teachers can explicitly draw their students' attention to the word, provide a quick explanation of the word, distinguish it from the more everyday word (*good*) and discuss the contribution of the more sophisticated word to the meaning of the story. In addition, teachers can encourage children to use the words and emphasize that learning lots of "fancy" or "big kid" words gives them more flexibility in expressing

their ideas, thereby developing students' awareness of language and abilities to use academic language. Some of the general academic words from the book can be taught more intensively so that students can begin to use the words confidently in their speaking and writing. Discussing what is happening in books and devoting explicit attention to vocabulary is important for all children, but for EL children, it is critical because school may be the only place where this occurs in English. While the principle content objectives during a teacher read aloud in ELA are driven by the CA CCSS for ELA/Literacy, these additional steps illustrate how the CA ELD Standards can be used in tandem with content standards.

Designated ELD is a protected time during the regular school day where teachers use the CA ELD Standards as the focal standards in ways that build *into and from content instruction* so that ELs develop critical English language skills, knowledge, and abilities needed for learning content in English. Designated ELD should not be viewed as separate and isolated from ELA, science, social studies, mathematics, and other disciplines but rather as an opportunity during the regular school day to support ELs to develop the discourse practices, grammatical structures, and vocabulary necessary for successful participation in school tasks across the content areas. A logical scope and sequence for English language development is aligned with the texts used and tasks implemented in ELA and other content instruction.

Designated ELD is an opportunity to *amplify* the language ELs need to develop in order to be successful in school and to augment instruction in order to meet the particular language learning needs of ELs at different English language proficiency levels. The main instructional emphases in designated ELD in transitional kindergarten through grade one are oral language development, including collaborative conversations and attention to vocabulary. Naturally, designated ELD instruction will involve some level of reading and writing since designated ELD builds into and from content instruction.

Examples of designated ELD that builds into and from content instruction are provided in brief s below. Lengthier vignettes for ELA/Literacy and aligned Designated ELD instruction are provided in the grade level sections.

Snapshot 4.1 Designated ELD Connected to Science

In science, Mr. Hunt often provides opportunities for his students to explore concepts using models or real objects (e.g., replicas of erosion, real earthworms and soil). The children in his class observe the natural world and record their observations (e.g., in the school garden, at a science literacy station) and discuss their observations with one another. He also reads aloud many informational texts and shows videos containing information on the science concepts in focus. Each day, he has his students write and draw about what they are learning in their science journals. Some of the language in the science texts and tasks that are new for his EL children are domain-specific vocabulary (e.g., *soil, root, stem, germination, sprout*), general academic vocabulary (e.g., *emerge, develop, delicate*), and prepositional phrases (e.g., *in the ground, for three weeks*).

Mr. Hunt provides structured opportunities for his EL children to use new language they are learning in meaningful ways in both science and designated ELD time. For example, during a science unit on insects, he has the children use models of insects and their science observation logs, which contain drawings with labels and short descriptions of observations, to *describe or explain* the science concepts they are learning about to partners (e.g., insect anatomy, behavior, habitat). He prompts the children to use specific domain-specific vocabulary (e.g., *thorax, abdomen, proboscis*), and he supports them with open sentence frames that target particular grammatical structures (e.g., *When the bee lands on the flower, ___).*

Mr. Hunt differentiates instruction depending on the group he is working with. For example, he discusses with all of the children during designated ELD ways in which they can *select language resources* and *expand and enrich their ideas* to be more precise and detailed when they orally describe the insects they are learning about. For students at the Emerging level of English language proficiency, he structures opportunities for them to use precise, domain-specific words (e.g., larva, thorax) when they describe their ideas; add a familiar adjective (e.g., big, small, green) to their nouns; and use simple prepositional phrases (e.g., on the leaf) to add detail to their sentences.

He shows EL students at the Expanding level how to *expand and enrich* their ideas in a growing number of ways. For example, he shows them how to add the prepositional phrases “with full pollen baskets” and “around the flowers” to the sentence “The bee is flying.” This creates the more detailed sentence, “The bee with full pollen baskets is flying around the flowers.”

He discusses the meaning of these sentences, provides the children with many opportunities to experiment with expanding and enriching their ideas in similar ways, and shows them where these types of sentences occur in the texts he is reading to them.

He also works with the children to *connect and condense their ideas* by combining sentences. He guides children at the Emerging level of language proficiency to construct the following types of compound sentences:

Bees are insects. Bees make honey. → Bees are insects, and they make honey.

When he works with his EL students at the Expanding level of English language proficiency, he

guides them to construct the following types of complex sentences:

Bees are insects. Bees make honey. → Bees are insects *that* make honey.

In ELA and science, Mr. Hunt encourages his EL students to use the language they have been learning in designated ELD in oral and written tasks.

Primary ELD Standards addressed in Designated ELD: ELD.PI.K-1.6, 12b (Em); ELD.PI.K-1.6, 12b (Ex); ELD.PII.K-1.4-6 (Em); ELD.PII.K-1.4-5; ELD.PII.1.7 (Ex)

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Snapshot 4.2 Designated ELD Connected to Mathematics

In mathematics, Mrs. Noguchi is teaching her students to explain their thinking when they solve word problems. She models how to do this while thinking aloud for her students as she solves word problems on her document reader. She draws figures with labels to make her thinking visible, and she identifies language in the word problems that reveals what kind of word problem it is (e.g., *how many are left, how many are there altogether, how many more).* She provides opportunities for her students to practice what she modeled, and she has them work collaboratively to solve word problems with peers and explain to one another how they are solving the problems. She also has them draw and label to show visually how they solved the problems.

During designated ELD instruction, Mrs. Noguchi works with her EL students to understand and gain confidence using the language needed to explain their mathematical thinking. For example, she uses familiar word problems from mathematics instruction and guides the children to chart the words and phrases needed to solve and explain the problems (e.g., *add, subtract, total, in all, how many more, how many are left*). Using puppets, manipulatives, and small whiteboards, the students work in triads and take turns assuming the role of "math teacher." They show their "students" how to solve the math problems as they *explain* how to solve them. She prompts the "teachers" to ask their "students" questions as they are explaining how to solve the problems so that they can practice using the terms in meaningful ways.

Mrs. Noguchi also prompts the children to provide good reasons for solving the problems the way they did. She provides them with sentence frames to support their explanations, tailored to the English language proficiency levels of her ELD groups. For example, when she works with children at the Emerging level of English language proficiency, to support them in explaining the sequence of their problem solving, she provides them with sentence frames containing sequencing terms (e.g., First, you ___. Then, you ___. Next, you __.). She provides ELs at the Expanding level with sentence frames that will promote more extended explanations of their thinking (e.g., First, you ___, because ___. After that, you have to ____ so you can see ___.) As the children engage in the task, Mrs. Noguchi observes them and encourages them to use the mathematical terms and phrases (e.g., *subtract, how many altogether*) in their explanations.

During math time, Mrs. Noguchi encourages her students to use the new language they have been practicing in designated ELD, and she observes how they are using the language to express their mathematical understanding so that she can continue to tailor her ELD instruction to her students'

language learning needs.

Primary ELD Standards addressed in Designated ELD: ELD.PI.K-1.1, 3, 5, 6, 11, 12b (Em), ELD.PI.K-1.1, 3, 5, 6, 11, 12b (Ex); ELD.PII.K-1.2 (Em); ELD.PII.K-1.2, 6 (Ex)

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Snapshot 4.3 Designated ELD Connected to ELA/Social Studies

In Social Studies, Mr. Dupont's class has been learning about how being a good citizen involves acting in certain ways. Through teacher read alouds of informational and literary texts (including stories and folktalkes), as well as viewing videos and other media, the children experience examples of honesty, courage, determination, individual responsibility, and patriotism in American and world history. Mr. Dupont takes care to emphasize American and international heroes that reflect his students' diverse backgrounds. He frequently has the children discuss their ideas and opinions, and he is preparing them to write an opinion piece about a historical figure from one of the texts they admire and to explain why they admire the person.

Mr. Dupont's EL children are at the Bridging level of English language proficiency, and during designated ELD, he provides his students with extended opportunities to discuss their ideas and opinions, as he knows that this will support them in writing their ideas. He strategically targets particular language that he would like for students to use in their opinion pieces by constructing sentence frames that contain specific vocabulary and grammatical structures that stretch his students to be more precise and detailed (e.g., My favorite hero is ___ because ___. ___ was *very courageous* when ___.). He explains to the children how they can expand their ideas in different ways by adding information about where, when, how, and so forth. For example, he explains that instead of simply saying, "She worked on a farm," children could say, "She worked on a farm *in California,"* or they could add even more detail and precision by saying, "She worked on a farm *in the central valley of California."* He provides his students with many opportunities to construct these expanded sentences as the students discuss the historical figures they are learning about and then write short summaries of their discussions at the end of lessons.

Mr. Dupont also delves deeper into some of the general academic and domain-specific vocabulary critical for discussing and writing opinions and ideas on the topic (e.g., *courage*, *determined, honest).* He teaches the words explicitly, and he pays careful attention to the conceptual understanding of the terms, rather than merely providing short definitions. He structures opportunities for his students to engage in collaborative conversations where they use several of the words in extended exchanges, and he supports the children to use the words accurately and appropriately by providing sentence frames that contain the words (e.g., I show responsibility when I ___, Honesty is important because ___).

Mr. Dupont thinks strategically about how oral language can serve as a bridge to written language in order to prepare his students for writing their opinion texts, and he observes his students during social studies and ELA to see how they are applying the language they are learning in designated ELD.

Primary ELD Standards addressed in Designated ELD: ELD.PI.K-1.1, 3, 6, 10, 12b (Br); ELD.PII.K-1.4-5,6 (Br)

Transitional Kindergarten

Transitional kindergarten provides young learners a literacy and language rich curriculum and environment that undergirds future learning. Transitional kindergarten programs capitalize on young children's active, social, and inquisitive natures. Rich models of literacy are provided as children engage in teacher-led and child-initiated projects and play activities daily. Transitional kindergartens implement a modified kindergarten curriculum in developmentally appropriate contexts that build on the California preschool learning foundations in language and literacy and, as appropriate, English language development. The additional year allows more time for social and emotional development along with more time to develop language and literacy skills, knowledge, and dispositions. Transitional kindergarten programs focus on developing skills and habits of mind that lead to success in traditional kindergarten, including curiosity about the world and how a variety of texts may contribute to satisfying that curiosity.

The chief differences between the transitional kindergarten and kindergarten program are the pacing, expectations, and amount of learning that is situated in play. Transitional kindergarteners move more slowly through the curriculum, make progress toward achievement of the kindergarten CA CCSS for ELA/Literacy without the expectation of mastery, and have more opportunities to engage in literacy and language activities in playful contexts.

The Kindergarten Readiness Act of 2010 (SB 1381, Chapter 705, Statutes of 2010) requires that districts provide children in transitional kindergarten instruction in a modified curriculum that is age and developmentally appropriate, but it does not specify what that curriculum should be. This framework offers guidance, drawing on both the CA CCSS for ELA/Literacy and the *California Preschool Curriculum Framework, Volume 1* (California Department of Education 2010).

Importantly, transitional kindergartens provide curriculum and instruction that promote young children's progress toward the Kindergarten CA CCSS for ELA/Literacy in a developmentally appropriate manner. Figure 4.11 offers guidelines for ensuring developmentally appropriate practice in literacy and language. See also the Transitional

Kindergarten Implementation Guide (California Department of Education 2013) and the Transitional Kindergarten in California Modules developed by the California State University (2013).

Figure 4.11. Literacy and Language Environments and Practices for Young Children

Programs provide the following:

Caring and knowledgeable educators who

- are physically, emotionally, cognitively, and verbally present
- respectfully partner with families and communities
- understand, respond to, and prepare appropriately for differences in ability, backgrounds (including language variety), and interests
- are intentional in the experiences they offer children while also being responsive to child-initiated inquiry
- provide individualized attention and engage in adult-child interactions
- have high expectations and clear, appropriate learning goals for all children

The full range of experiences that foster literacy development, including

- well-conceived, well-delivered, and comprehensive instruction and experiences in each of the components of early literacy situated within a nurturing environment that fosters the development of the child in all domains
- a rich and coherent curriculum in the content areas situated within a nurturing environment that fosters the development of the child in all domains
- an integrated curriculum in which learning experiences are organized around big ideas and themes so that content area and literacy experiences support and build on one another

Environments that support literacy learning by being

- physically and psychologically safe environments
- environments that encourage and foster imaginative play
- language-rich environments
- print-rich (or tactilely rich) environments
- writing-rich environments
- cognitively stimulating environments

Access to numerous high-quality books and myriad other print, visual, and auditory media

- of all genres and that represent diverse populations and human perspectives
- that reflect children's interests and backgrounds and also expand their interests and build their background knowledge
- that include books and other media in the primary language(s) of the children

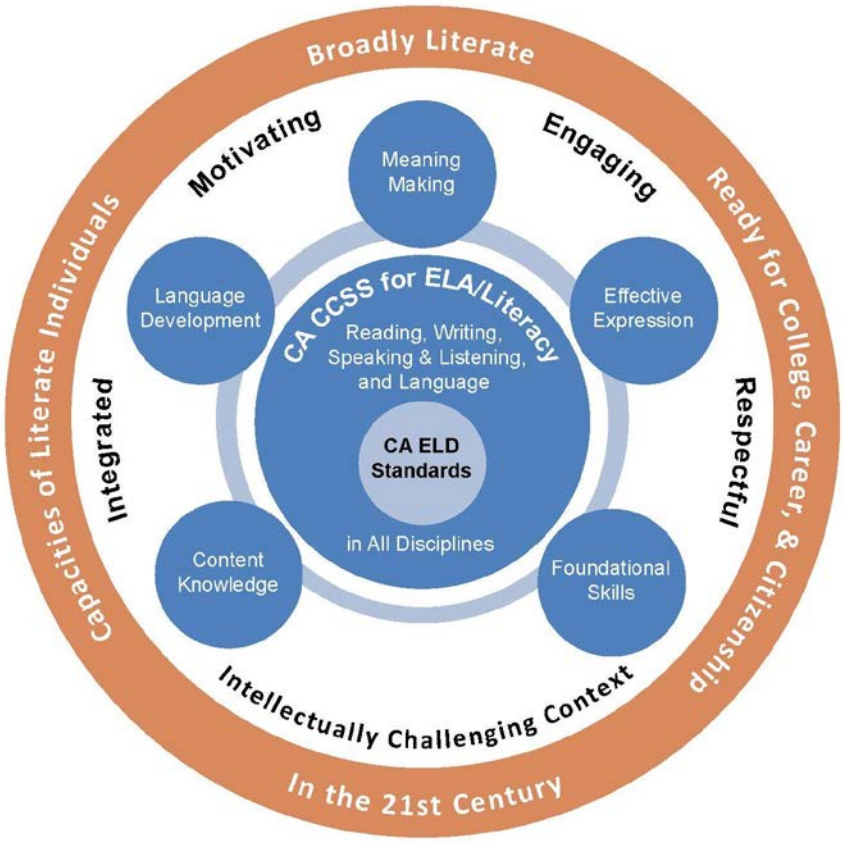
- in well-stocked libraries and throughout the setting
- that children can explore on their own in comfortable and quiet locations
- that are read aloud to individuals, small groups, and the whole group
- that are read repeatedly and daily

Source: Center for the Advancement of Reading, California State University .

Key Themes of ELA/Literacy and ELD Instruction

ELA/Literacy and ELD instruction focuses on the key instructional themes of **meaning making, language development, effective expression, content knowledge,** and **foundational skills,** as discussed in Chapters 2 and 3**.** Each of these themes is displayed in Figure 4.12 and discussed briefly here; the kindergarten section provides additional guidance.

Figure 4.12. Goals, Themes, and Context for Implementation of the CA CCSS for ELA/Literacy and the CA ELD Standards



Meaning Making

In transitional kindergarten (and throughout the grades), meaning making is the heart of all instruction. Children's learning is purposeful. Children engage with text (largely through read alouds), participate in learning experiences, attend to instruction in all the content areas, and interact with one another in meaningful ways and with a range of text materials of a variety of genres. They have access to a comfortable, accessible, and child-friendly classroom library and space to explore books independently and with peers. They are read aloud to daily from books they may later pick up and recite from memory (such as predictable books) and from texts that stretch their language and build their knowledge of literature, genres, and content. They see printed materials used in purposeful ways throughout the day and in a variety of the settings, such as in centers, during instruction, and on walls. Discussions about texts and other learning experiences focus on understanding the content or author's message and on making connections with the children's lives and their learning. Teachers guide children to make inferences and to think critically as they engage with texts and topics. They model reasoning, especially through thinking aloud as they read. They demonstrate enjoyment and satisfaction in learning from books.

Transitional kindergarteners make progress toward achievement of the kindergarten CA CCSS for ELA/Literacy related to meaning making, building from several of the California Preschool Learning Foundations, particularly the following foundations in Comprehension and Analysis of Age-Appropriate Text (California Department of Education 2008):

In preschool, at around age 60 months, children:

4.1 Demonstrate knowledge of details in a familiar story, including characters, events, and ordering of events through answering questions (particularly summarizing, predicting, and inferences), retelling, reeenacting, or creating artwork).

4.2 Use information from informational text in a variety of ways, including describing, relating, categorizing, or comparing and contrasting.

See the kindergarten section of this chapter for more information.

Language Development

Language development is the cornerstone of transitional kindergarten programs, and children engage in many verbal exchanges throughout each day. They discuss a broad range of texts and topics with diverse partners, including adults. They share their thoughts and experiences and are encouraged to ask questions of one another. Teachers demonstrate a genuine interest in their ideas and prompt them to share their knowledge, feelings, and opinions. They guide children in using language to reflect on, clarify, and share the experiences they have across the curricula.

Teachers support children's language development by building from the California Preschool Learning Foundations in Listening and Speaking (See Figure 4.13) and making progress toward the kindergarten CCSS for ELA/Literacy (See the kindergarten section of this chapter).

Figure 4.13 California Preschool Learning Foundations Related to Language Development (California Department of Education 2008)

At around 60 months of age, children:

Language Use and Conventions	
Foundation	**Examples**
1.4 Use language to construct extended narratives that are real or fictional.	The child tells a brief story that unfolds over time: "I went to the park with my mommy, and we played in the sandbox. Then we had a picnic. After that, we went to the store."
Vocabulary	
Foundation	**Examples**
2.1 Understand and use an increasing variety and specificity of accepted	*Nouns/Objects*: The child hands a friend the *fire truck,* the *dump truck*, and the *semitruck* when the friends says, "I want

Language Use and Conventions	
Foundation	**Examples**
words for objects, actions, and attributes encountered in both real and symbolic contexts.	to play with the fire truck, dump truck, and semi," during play. *Verbs/Actions*: The child says to a parent volunteer, "I have a story. Can you *type* it on the computer for me?" *Attributes*: During a cooking project, the child gives the teacher the plastic fork when the teacher says, "Hand me the *plastic* one."
2.2 Understand and use accepted words for categories of objects encountered in everyday life.	After reading a book about reptiles, the child points to pictures of a snake, a lizard, and a turtle when the teacher asks the children to find the pictures of *reptiles*.
2.3 Understand and use both simple and complex words that describe the relations between objects.	While playing in the block center, DeAndre tells Susan, "Put the red block *in front of* the tower."
Grammar	
Foundation	**Examples**
3.1 Understand and use increasingly complex and longer sentences, including sentences that combine two to three phrases or three to four concepts to communicate ideas.	The child produces a two-part sentence through coordination, using *and* and *but* (e.g., "I'm pushing the wagon, *and* he is pulling it" and "It's naptime, *but* I'm not tired."

The transitional kindergarten environment is language rich, and speaking and listening--and learning about language--are significant parts of each day. Children have multiple opportunities to express themselves verbally, informally and in more structured ways, about intellectually-stimulating subjects. Teachers serve as excellent language models, participate in one-on-one conversations with children that include multiple exchanges on the same subject, use and engage children in decontextualized (beyond the here and now) language, and provide opportunities for pretend language, such as in a dramatic play area.

Vocabulary development receives special attention. The number and diversity of the words young children know is related to later school success (Sénéchal, Ouelette, and Rodney 2006).Transitional kindergarten teachers are aware of the crucial role they play in expanding children's vocabulary. They ensure that they are rich models, provide

stimulating curricula that introduce children to new concepts (with accompanying words), read aloud from books that use more sophisticated language than that used by the children, provide child-friendly definitions. Words are taught in meaningful contexts and children have many opportunities to use them as they engage in discussions and learning activities.

Meaningful uses of English include engaging in collaborative oral discussions with a peer or a small group of peers about texts or content topics, reciting poems or singing songs, or providing grade-appropriate oral presentations (such as sharing a favorite book during circle time). Not all students come to school knowing how to engage in these interactive processes with other students. However, research in classrooms with ELs has demonstrated that teachers can successfully "apprentice" their students into engaging in more school-based or academic ways of interacting with one another, using the language of the specific content in question, acquiring the language of academic discourse, and developing content knowledge (Gibbons 2009; Walquí and van Lier 2010).

Language development is fostered when teachers establish routines and expectations for equitable and accountable conversations (e.g., think-pair-share); carefully construct questions that promote extended discussions about academic content (e.g., questions that require students to describe or explain something for which they have sufficient background knowledge); ignite children's curiosity and spark their imaginations; and, as appropriate, provide linguistic support (e.g., a sentence frame, such as "At school, I'm determined to ___ because ____."). With strategic scaffolding, EL children can learn to adopt particular ways of using English that approach the more "literate" ways of communicating that are highly valued in school (Dutro and Kinsella 2010; Gibbons 2009; Merino and Scarcella 2005; Schleppegrell 2010).

Kaiser, Roberts and McLeod (2011, 167) recommend the following practices for supporting the language development of young children who appear to have language delays, which are also useful with typically developing children:

- Modifications in teacher interactional style (e.g., more responsive to child communication)

- Use of specific instructional strategies in a group context (language modeling, prompting child responses, using expansions and other contingent feedback strategies)
- Arrangement of the environment to support child engagement and learning from the curriculum.

Children with disabilities may need additional encouragement or cues to participate.

Effective Expression

A third major theme of the CA CCSS for ELA/Literacy and the CA ELD Standards is effective expression. The standards call for children learn to convey their ideas, opinions, and knowledge about texts and topics in all subject matter. This section provides guidance on writing, discussing, presenting, and using language conventions in transitional kindergarten.

Writing

Children see print used purposefully, such as when menus, routines, and the day's news are posted and discussed. They observe adults record their thoughts as they dictate them. They find magazines, books, posters, brochures, coupons, and catalogs throughout the environment, such as in block, dramatic play, art, and science centers. They have available throughout the room a variety of writing instruments and surfaces on which to write and draw, including stationery, envelopes, postcards, message pads, note pads, and poster paper. Children are prompted to use written language for their own purposes. They are encouraged to scribble, draw, and make letter like marks on paper and other appropriate surfaces. They have access to computers and letter tiles. They are given numerous opportunities to express themselves in writing, and the teacher guides them to employ the print concepts, phonological awareness skills, and phonics and word/print recognition skills they are learning. Writing activities occur daily and are systematically and strategically planned.

Teachers build from the following California Preschool Learning Foundations in Writing (California Department of Education 2008). In preschool, at around age 60 months, children:

1.1 Adjust grasp and body position for increased control in drawing and writing.

1.2 Write letters or letter-like shapes to represent words or ideas.

1.3 Write first name nearly correctly.

They make considerable progress toward the kindergarten writing CA CCSS for ELA/Literacy, which are follow the kindergarten section of this chapter. They learn, especially to draw, dictate and use emerging knowledge of the alphabetic code to compose opinion pieces, informative/explanatory texts, and narrations (W.K.1-3).

Discussing

In transitional kindergarten, teachers support children's skill in discussion by building from the following California Preschool Learning Foundations in Listening and Speaking (California Department of Education 2008). In preschool, at around age 60 months, children:

1.1 Use language to communicate with others in both familiar and unfamiliar social situations for a variety of basic and advanced purposes, including reasoning, predicting, problem solving, and seeking new information.

1.2 Speak clearly enough to be understood by both familiar and unfamiliar adults and children.

1.3 Use accepted language and style during communication with both familiar and unfamiliar adults and children.

Using the preschool foundations as a springboard, teachers guide transitional kindergarteners to make progress toward achievement of the kindergarten CA CCSS for ELA/Literacy in Speaking and Listening, which include following agreed-upon rules for discussion (e.g., listening to others and taking turns speaking about the topics and texts under discussion) and continuing a conversation through multiple exchanges (SL.K.1a b), asking and answering questions and requesting clarification (SL.K.2) as well as providing clarification (SL.K.3). Teachers use some of the following approaches, among others and as appropriate, to support children's' progress in discussion:

- Encouraging children to address one another, modeling and teaching students to make eye contact with single and multiple listeners as they share their thoughts
- Providing wait time in teacher-facilitated group discussions before calling on a child, thus giving everyone think time, which is especially important for ELs and for children who are, at this point, less verbal than their peers
- Making use of a prop (such as a foam ball or stuffed toy), which is passed from one child to another, to signal who has the floor
- Strategically asking questions that prompt children to build on or respond to one another's comments, such as "Can someone add to what Nga just said?" "What questions do you have for Jean?" And "What else do you know about what Frank just said?", thus guiding children to listen to one another and to stay on topic
- Encouraging children to address one another in a group discussion
- Avoiding responding to every child's comment during a group discussion, thereby allowing children to continue the conversation and converse with one another (in other words, teachers become one member of the group rather than the dominant member; group conversations are held, not a series of one-on-one dialogs with the teacher)
- Helping the most enthusiastic contributors give others the opportunity to speak

In addition to posing questions, such as those discussed in the Overview of the Span in this chapter, teachers may provide sentence starters to prompt small group or partner discussions. For example, the teacher may pause during a read aloud and ask children to think about and then turn to a neighbor and complete one or more of the following sentences:.

I think _____

The character is _____

What is really interesting about what our teacher just read is _____

This made me think of _____

I wonder _____

The author _____

It will take time for young children to effectively engage in discussions. Teachers should include children in determining expectations for discussions, model effective discussion

behaviors and comments, and provide many opportunities for children to discuss texts and topics with one another across the curricula.

Presenting

In transitional kindergarten, children make progress toward the kindergarten standards of the CA CCSS for ELA/Literacy that are related to presenting. Specifically, they begin to describe familiar people, places, things, and events, and, with prompting and support, provide additional detail (SL.K.4), add drawings or other visual displays to descriptions as desired to provide additional detail (SL.K.5), and speak audibly and express thoughts, feelings, and ideas clearly (SL.K.6).

Presenting requires more formal language use and an awareness of the audience. Among other ways, children in transitional kindergarten present during "show and tell." They show a small or large group of peers:

- a favorite book
- an interesting toy
- a project they are working on (such as a painting or a clay figure)
- a photograph
- items from home that carry special meaning
- other items of their choice

Children are encouraged to prepare what they wish to tell their peers about their object and sometimes scaffolds are provided, such as prompts ("Tell us about a character in the book. Tell us about a favorite page or illustration in the book.) and sentence frames ("This photograph shows _____").

Children may also present to family members, either virtually, such as when the group recites a poem which is recorded and posted on the class Web page, or face-to-face, such as when parents are invited to a performance.

Teachers provide instruction in speaking clearly, making eye contact with the audience, and responding to questions.

Using Language Conventions

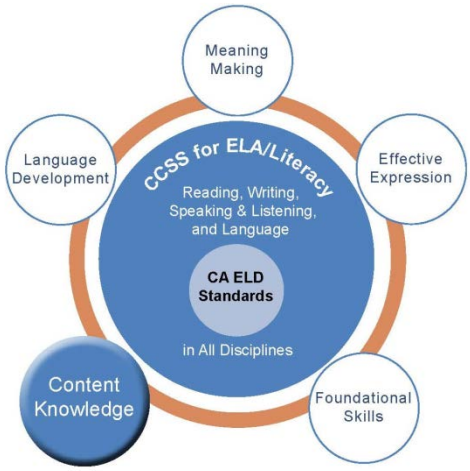
Children in transitional kindergarten make progress toward the language conventions outlined in the Kindergarten CA CCSS for ELA/Literacy. (See the kindergarten section of this chapter for a discussion of the kindergarten grammar and

usage expectations for writing and speaking and the capitalization, punctuation, and spelling expectations for writing.) Transitional kindergarteners are provided instruction as well as meaningful contexts in which to apply their learning. Teachers build from the California Preschool Learning Foundations (California Department of Education 2008) in grammar. In preschool, at around age 60 months, children:

> 3.1 Understand and typically use age-appropriate grammar, including accepted word forms, such as subject-verb agreement, progressive tense, regular and irregular past tense, regular and irregular plurals, pronouns, and possessives.

Teachers attend to children's usage and ensure they hear accurate models of usage. They plan game-like activities that guide children's correct usage, recognizing the value of recasting children's comments. They know that language conventions develop over time and that children may overgeneralize new understandings (saying *runned*, for example, when using past tense).

Content Knowledge



The content areas are given systematic attention in transitional kindergarten. Teachers examine the California Preschool Learning Foundations in mathematics, social sciences, science, health, and the visual and performing arts and use the foundations along with the kindergarten content standards as guideposts for instruction. Much is learned through play and hands-on experiences, but these are intentionally designed with clear objectives in mind. Content knowledge is built in a cohesive, not haphazard, fashion.

Contributing to the development of content knowledge are wide reading experiences (through examining picture books and participating in teacher read alouds). Teachers ensure that about half of the books they read aloud and make available are informational books, which have been a paucity in the lives of young children (Duke 2000, Yopp, R. H. and Yopp 2006). Books are selected wisely so that knowledge is built and domain-specific words are heard and viewed multiple times, thus increasing the

chance they will become a part of the children's vocabularies. Figure 4.14 provides guidance for ensuring young children's exposure to informational text.

Figure 4.14 Ensuring Young Children's Access to Informational Text

- Have an inviting and well-stocked classroom library that includes informational text, and ensure that it is accessible to children. The library area should have visual appeal and comfortable furniture (a rug and bean bags, for example), and children should be provided with easy access to books and other text materials such as magazines and pamphlets. Consider placing books so that covers face out (as opposed to spine out) in order to capture children's attention and interest. Teachers can keep informed about informational books they might want to include in their classroom libraries by visiting public libraries and book stores and searching the Internet. The National Science Teachers Association, for example, publishes a list of Outstanding Science Trade Books for children each year. This list can be found at http://www.nsta.org/publications/ostb/.
- Place informational books in centers. Children's books about forces and motion might be placed in a science center. Books about fish might be displayed by a class aquarium. Books about lines, shapes, and colors might be placed in an art center. Having books available where the children are engaged in activity invites children to pick them up and look through them and often inspires children to ask the teacher to read them aloud.
- Make informational texts a regular part of your read-aloud routine. Children are curious about their world and are eager to learn about their natural and social world. Reading aloud from books about plants and animals or national and state symbols, for example, will answer children's questions about the world and inspire more questions. After reading, leave the books accessible so children can explore them on their own if they choose. Select books related to children's interests as well as those related to current topics of study.
- Include informational text in all areas of the curriculum. When children are exploring music, use books about musical instruments to convey information. When children are investigating weather, share books about rain, snow, and wind. Invite students to observe and talk about words and images in books.
- Display informational text on classroom walls. Kindergarten teachers are well aware of the importance of creating a print-rich environment for their students. Include in that environment informational text such as posters with diagrams and labels and pictures with captions.
- Provide children with opportunities to be writers of informational text. Let them write or dictate what they know and have learned or experienced. Share their writing with the class by reading it aloud or having the children read it aloud and posting it on the classroom walls.
- Monitor student access and exposure to informational text. Observe children, and notice the books they are handling and what interests them. Use your observations to make decisions about additional books for the classroom and to gently spark interest in the variety of materials you make available. Keep

a record of the materials you share with students, and be sure to balance informational text with other text types such as stories and poetry.

- Teach with and about informational texts in your literacy program. The CCSS for ELA/Literacy acknowledges the importance of including informational text in early childhood classrooms and requires kindergarten teachers to address standards related to reading informational text. TK teachers play an important role in laying the groundwork for children to achieve the reading standards for informational text through offering developmentally appropriate experiences with these books.
- Raise family awareness of the importance of sharing a variety of text types. Some teachers share lists of books with family members for reading aloud at home to their young children. Others send home small backpacks containing books and ask that children share them with their families over the weekend. Be sure that informational texts are included on the lists and in the backpacks. At formal and informal meetings, talk to parents and other important adults about the value of reading aloud and sharing a variety of text types. Provide information about books in a school or classroom newsletter.

Source: Yopp, Ruth H. 2007. "Informational Text in the Preschool Classroom." *The California Reader* 41 (1): 46-52.

Foundational Skills

Children in transitional kindergarten make significant progress toward the kindergarten CA CCSS for ELA/Literacy foundational skills. Instruction takes many forms and includes direct instruction, modeling, and meaningful exploration. Children participate in whole-class, small group, and individual lessons. The foundational skills are taught in a purposeful context that ensures children are eager to learn. Alphabet letters, for example, are not taught merely for their own sake. Children witness the symbols' importance in many classroom routines; books read aloud, their dictated thoughts recorded in print, information accessed in center materials, and a range of activities. Children recognize that the code is important and has a valuable role to play in their lives. At the same time, teachers do not assume that children will learn the letters and their corresponding sounds simply through exposure. They provide systematic and

thoughtful instruction and make explicit links with the print children see and use in the room and in their lives.

Figure 4.15 provides the preschool foundations from the *California Preschool Learning Foundations* for Language and Literacy that are related to the kindergarten reading foundations of the CA CCSS for ELA/Literacy.

Figure 4.15. California Preschool Learning Foundations: Reading (California Department of Education 2008, 63-67)

At around 60 months of age, children:

Concepts about Print	
Foundation	**Examples**
1.1 Display appropriate book-handling behaviors and knowledge of print conventions.	The child orients a book correctly for reading (i.e., right-side up with the front cover facing the child.)
1.2 Understand that print is something that is read and has specific meaning.	The child asks the teacher, "What does this say?"when point to text in a book.
Phonological Awareness	
Foundation	**Examples**
2.1 Orally blend and delete words and syllables without the support of pictures or objects.	*Blend words*: The child plays the "What's That Word?" game while on a swing. With each push of the swing, the teacher says one part of a compound word (e.g., sun, shine) and then asks the child, "What's that word?" The child responds, "Sunshine." *Blend syllables*: The child chants, "sister" after singing along to, "What word do you get when you say 'sis' and 'ter' together? *Delete words*: The child responds, "*table*" when asked, "What word do you get when you say '*tablecloth*' without '*cloth*'?" *Delete syllables*: The child responds, "*door*" when asked, "What word do you get when you say '*doorknob*' without '*knob*'?"
2.2 Orally blend the onsets, rimes, and phonemes of words and orally delete the onsets of words, with the support	*Blend onsets and rimes*: While engaged in a game, the child selects the picture of a bed from among three or four pictures (or says, "*bed*") when asked to put together the letter sounds

Concepts about Print	
Foundation	**Examples**
of pictures or objects.	*b--ed*. *Blend phonemes*: While playing a "bingo game" during small group time, the child chooses and marks pictures corresponding to the words for which the teacher sounds out the individual phonemes (e.g., h-a-t, m-o-p, c-u-p). *Delete onsets*: The child selects the picture of *ants* from among three or four pictures (or says, "*ants*") when asked to say "*pants*" without the "p" letter sound.
Alphabetics and Word/Print Recognition	
Foundation	**Examples**
3.1 Recognize own name or other common words in print.	The child recognizes his or her name on a sign-in sheet, helper chart, artwork, or name tag (e.g., name tap, label for the cubby, or place at the table).
3.2 Match more than half of uppercase letter names and more than half of lowercase letter names to their printed form.	When shown an upper- or lowercase letter, the child can say its name.
3.3 Begin to recognize that letters have sounds.	The child says the correct letter sound while pointing to the letter in a book.

As noted in the Overview of the Span of this chapter, children learn concepts about print through teacher modeling of book handling and ample exposure to a variety of print materials. They make progress in learning upper and lower case letters through Teachers model daily how print works, and children engage meaningfully and purposefully with print in a range of contexts. (Note: Alphabet knowledge is identified as a "Print Concept" in the reading foundational skills of the CA CCSS for ELA/Literacy but it is not listed in the "Concepts about Print" substrand of the California Preschool Learning Foundations. Rather, in the latter it is listed in the Alphabetics and Word/Print Recognition substrand.)

Transitional kindergarteners build phonological awareness through both direct instruction and through frequent play with the sounds of language. Children learn that spoken words consist of smaller units (syllables, onsets and rimes, and phonemes), and

they manipulate those units as they sing, recite poems, engage with books, and play language games. Examples include the following (Yopp, H.K. and Yopp 2009):

- Children sing “Old MacDonald” and, with teacher prompting, add a phoneme to the initial position of E-I-E-I-O, singing BE-BI-BE-BI-BO or HE-HI-HE-HI-HO.
- Children learn and recite Hickory Dickory Dock. The teacher later changes “Dock” to “Dare” and the children contribute a corresponding rhyme, chanting “Hickory Dickory Dare/The mouse ran up the...stair!” or “bear!”
- The teacher reads aloud *The Hungry Thing* by Ann Seidler and Jan Slepian (2001) and children determine the actual food that rhymes with a nonsense word given by the Hungry Thing. For example, when the Hungry Thing requests *fancakes*, children exclaim *pancakes*! (See Figure 4.16 for books that play with sounds.)
- Children play I Spy, in which an adult spies something in the room and gives a clue by segmenting the name of the object into its onset and rime: “I spy with my little eye a /r/-/ug/.” Children call out, “rug!”
- Children go on a word hunt. The teacher provides a clue to a word by sharing its segmented onset and rime. The children blend the units together to determine the word: /mmmmm/-/op/ is *mop.*
- Children play guessing games with the teacher. The teacher has an image or object in a bag and provides a sound clue (such as the segmented word, /l/-/ē/-/f/ for a leaf). The children blend the sounds orally to guess the object.

Teachers model the activities as necessary (thinking aloud) and closely observe children’s cognitive, social, and emotional responses to activities. As with all instruction, they consider their reasons for selecting particular activities; the supports, accommodations, or modifications that might be necessary for individuals; the evidence of understanding they will look for; and, based on the progression of learning and their observations of the children, the next steps.

Figure 4.16. Read-Aloud Books that Play with Language

English Books	Spanish Books
Bynum, Janie. 1999. *Altoona Baboona*. San Diego: Harcourt. Waber, Bernard. 1997*. Bearsie Bear and the Surprise Sleepover Party*. New York: Houghton Mifflin. Martin, Bill Jr. 1970. *The Happy Hippopotami*. San Diego: Voyager. Dewdney, Anna. 2005. *Llama Llama Red Pajama*. New York: Viking. Pomerantz, Charlotte. 1974. *The Piggy in the Puddle*. New York: Simon & Schuster. Seuss. 1974. *There's a Wocket in My Pocket!* New York: Random House.	Ada, Alma F., and Isabel Campoy. 2003. ¡Pio Peep! Rimas Tradicionales en Español, Edición Especial. New York: Harpor Collins. Delgado, Henry G. 2002. *Destrabalen*güe*rías para Trabalen*güe*ros*. Bogotá, Colbumia: Intermedio. Griego, Margot C., and others. 1981. *Tortillitas Para Mama and Other Nursery Rhymes*: *Spanish and English*. New York: Henry Holt. Robleda, Margarita. 2003. *Números Tragaldabas*. Mexico: Ediciones Destino.

In terms of the phonics and word recognition standards of the kindergarten CA CCSS for ELA/Literacy, children make progress toward learning letter-sound correspondences for consonants and vowels (RF.K.3a-b). They also begin to learn some high-frequency words by sight (RF.K.3c) and begin to distinguish between similarly spelled words (RF.K.3d). These skills build from the preschool foundations. They are taught directly, but not without relevance in the children's worlds. In other words, teachers ensure connections between explicit instruction in a letter sound and the appearance of those letters and their corresponding sounds in shared readings and in children's dictated, shared, and independent writing.

Figure 4.17 (duplicated from Appendix A of the CA ELD Standards) provides guidance on addressing foundational literacy skills instruction for kindergarten ELs and can also be used to inform instruction in transitional kindergarten.

1366 Figure 4.17. Foundational Literacy Skills for ELs

Student Language and Literacy Characteristics		Considerations for Foundational Literacy Skills Instruction	CA CCSS for ELA/Literacy Reading Standards: Foundational Skills
Oral Skills	No or little spoken English proficiency	Students will need instruction in recognizing and distinguishing the sounds of English as compared or contrasted with sounds in their native language (e.g., vowels, consonants, consonant blends, syllable structures).	**Phonological Awareness** 2. Demonstrate understanding of spoken words, syllables, and sounds (phonemes). • RF.K.2
	Spoken English proficiency	Students will need instruction in applying their knowledge of the English sound system to foundational literacy learning.	
Print Skills	No or little native language literacy	Students will need instruction in print concepts.	**Print Concepts** 1. Demonstrate understanding of the organization and basic features of print. • RF.K.1 **Phonics and Word Recognition** 3. Know and apply grade-level phonics and word analysis skills in decoding words. • RF.K.3 **Fluency** 4. Read emergent-reader texts with purpose and understanding. • RF.K.4
	Some foundational literacy proficiency in a language not using the Latin alphabet (e.g., Arabic, Chinese, Korean, Russian)	Students will be familiar with print concepts, and will need instruction in learning the Latin alphabet for English, as compared or contrasted with their native language writing system (e.g., direction of print, symbols representing whole words, syllables or phonemes).	
	Some foundational literacy proficiency in a language using the Latin alphabet (e.g., Spanish)	Students will need instruction in applying their knowledge of print concepts, phonics and word recognition to the English writing system, as compared or contrasted with their native language alphabet (e.g., letters that are the same or different, or	

		represent the same or different sounds) and native language vocabulary (e.g., cognates) and sentence structure (e.g., subject-verb-object vs. subject-object-verb word order).	

An Integrated and Interdisciplinary Approach

The strands of the English language arts and literacy (reading, writing, speaking and listening, and language) are integrated among themselves as well as with content learning. Guests entering the classroom might have difficulty determining whether they are witnessing "science," "language," or "writing" instruction, for example, because in fact all three likely would be occurring at the same time. Snapshots 4.4, 4.5, and 4.6 provide brief glimpses at integrated instruction in transitional kindergarten classrooms.

Snapshot 4.4 Integrated Strands of ELA in Transitional Kindergarten

Transitional kindergarteners listen to, enjoy, and discuss the book, *Goldilocks and the Three Bears,* several times over the course of a week. Their teacher, Mrs. Haddad, guides children's identification of key story details using its narrative structure, recording the characters, settings, and key events of the plot on a large chart. With support, children use 12" x 18" construction paper to construct individual books. Drawing or using cut paper, each child designs a cover page, a page with Goldilocks' home in the forest, one with three bowls, one with three chairs, and one with three beds. Paper cut-outs of Goldilocks and the bears are given to the children. They are used as props. Children move them through the pages of their books, which serve as scaffolds, to retell the story to one another. (Mrs. Haddad thoughtfully selected the book for the retelling activity because there are objects, such as bowls, chairs, and beds, that can serve as memory triggers for story events and for particular language usage: "This porridge is too hot! This porridge is too cold! This porridge is just right.") Children have multiple opportunities to retell the story using their books with different partners. Mrs. Haddad offers to video record those who wish to be recorded so that the story may be viewed on a class computer during independent choice time. Eventually, the books are taken home so that children may tell the story to their families.

CA CCSS for ELA/Literacy: RL.K.1; RL.K.2; RL.K.3; W.K.3; SL.K.1; SL.K.2; L.K.6

California Preschool Learning Foundations (60 months):

Listening and Speaking 1.4: Use language to construct extended narratives that are real or fictional.

Reading 4.1: Demonstrate knowledge of details in a familiar story, including characters, events, and

ordering of events through answering questions (particularly summarizing, predicting, and inferences), retelling, reenacting, or creating artwork.

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Snapshot 4.5 Integrated ELA and Mathematics in Transitional Kindergarten

Ms. Watson reads *Tingo Tango Mango Tree* by Marcia Vaughan to her transitional kindergarteners and, after a discussion of the story, she asks the children what they notice about the animals' names. She repeats them and encourages the children to join in. The iguana is named Sombala Bombala Rombala Roh. The flamingo is Kokio Lokio Mokio Koh. The parrot is Willaby Dillaby Dallaby Doh. The turtle is Nanaba Panaba Tanaba Goh. The bat is Bitteo Biteo. They repeat the names several times and comment that most of the names are longer than any they have heard! Together, with Ms. Watson's support, the children clap the syllables in each character's name. They determine that all the names except the bat's are comprised of nine syllables! Bitteo Biteo contains six syllables. The teacher suggests the children clap the syllables in their own names, modeling her name first: Wat-son has two syllables. Then children turn to a neighbor to share and confirm the number of syllables in their names. Then, the teacher asks each individual to clap his or her name for the group, and corrective feedback is gently, but clearly, provided. Children next organize themselves into groups in different areas of the room. Those with one syllable names stand in one area, those with two syllables stand in another area, and so on. With Ms. Watson's guidance, the children form a "human histogram," defining the term. With a common starting point, they line up with all children having one-syllable in one line, those with two syllable names in another, and so on. They converse with their peers about their observations of the lines. Which line has the most children? Which has the fewest? What does the length of the line mean? Then children return to tables and write their names on sticky notes. They affix the notes to a group chart, constructing a paper histogram this time. Again, the children talk with one another about their observations, describing the data. Then the teacher solicits comments about conclusions they draw and the children's comments are written on the chart alongside the histogram. For example, one child says "There are more people with two-syllable names than another number of syllables" and another child says "There are the same number of children with one- and four-syllable names." A few children suggest that the story character's names be included on the graph, and they giggle as it is done.

CA CCSS for ELA/Literacy: RL.K.1; RF.K.2b; W.K.2; SL.K.1; SL.K.6; L.K.6**CA CCSS for Mathematics:**
K.CC.5: Count to answer "how many?" questions . . .
K.CC.6 Identify whether the number of objects in one group is greater than, less than, or equal to the number of objects in another group...
K.MD.2: Directly compare two objects with a measurable attribute in common to see which object has "more of"/"less of" the attribute, and describe the difference.
K.MD.3: Classify objects into given categories; count the numbers of objects in each category and sort

the categories by count.

California Preschool Learning Foundations (60 months):

Reading 2.1: Orally blend and delete words and syllables without the support of pictures or objects.

Number Sense 1.4: Count up to ten objects, using one-to-one correspondence...

Number Sense 2.1: Compare, by counting or matching, two groups of up to five objects and communicate, “more,” “same as,” or “fewer” (or “less”).

Algebra and Functions 1.1: Sort and classify objects by one or more attributes, into two or more groups...

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Snapshot 4.6 Integrated ELA, Science, and Art in Transitional Kindergarten

It's spring and most of the transitional kindergarteners know many of the alphabet letters. Mrs. Heaton has been sharing a variety of animal informational alphabet books with the students in recent weeks, including Jerry Pallotta's *The Ocean Alphabet Book*, *The Sea Mammal Alphabet Book*, and *The Butterfly Alphabet Book,* to reinforce their letter knowledge and also expose them to informational text and science concepts. The children are enraptured by the interesting information they are learning about animals, asking and answering questions about the content. The teacher leaves the books in a center so they can enjoy them on their own.

One morning the children enter the classroom to find butcher paper stretched across one wall of the room. Spanning the length of the paper are the letters of the alphabet. Mrs. Heaton tells the children they are going to create a mural of many of the animals they have been reading about and any others they would like to learn about. Throughout the week, children use the books and other materials, such as printed images of the animals, to paint one or more animals of their choice. They ask the teacher to read and reread sections of the alphabet books to help them remember interesting information and dictate a sentence about their animals to the teacher or family volunteer who prints the name of the animal and the sentence on a large index card. With support, the children cut out their painted animal and identify where to position it on the alphabet mural. Daniel, for example, who drew a jellyfish finds the letter "J" on the mural and requests that his teacher tape his painting and sentence under it. While the mural is under construction and for weeks after, the students enjoy viewing the animals and listening to the teacher and other adults read the information dictated onto the cards.

CA CCSS for ELA/Literacy: RI.K.1; RF.K.1; RF.K.3a,b; W.K.2; L.K.6

California Preschool Learning Foundations (60 months):

Reading 3.2: Match more than half of uppercase letter names and more than half of lowercase letter names to their printed form.

Reading 3.3: Begin to recognize that letters have sounds.

Scientific Inquiry 2.1: Record information more regularly and in greater detail in various ways, with adult

assistance, including pictures, words (dictated to adults) . . .

Life Sciences 1.1: Identify characteristics of a greater variety of animals and plants . . .

Next Generation Science Standards:

K-LS1-1: Use observations to describe patterns of what plants and animals (including humans) need to survive.

K-ESS2-1: Construct an argument supported by evidence for how pants and animals (including humans) can change the environment to meet their needs.

K-ESS3-1: Use a model to represent the relationship between the needs of different plants or animals (including humans) and the places they live.

Visual and Performing Arts Content Standards:

Visual Arts K.2: Students apply artistic processes and skills, using a variety of media to communicate meaning and intent in original works of art.

English Language Development in Transitional Kindergarten

From their first days in transitional kindergarten, teachers support their EL students to learn English, learn content knowledge through English, and learn about how English works. English language development occurs throughout the day across the disciplines and also during a time specifically designated for developing English based on EL student's language learning needs, although differences in approaches to ELD will vary depending on the program of instruction in which children are enrolled (e.g., mainstream English, two-way immersion). The CA ELD Standards serve a guide for teachers to meet the English language development needs of their EL students throughout the day during ELA and other content areas, and how to focus on these language learning needs strategically during a time specifically designated for this purpose. The CA ELD Standards should be used in tandem with California's Preschool Learning Foundations and the CA CCSS for ELA/Literacy for Kindergarten, as well as other related content standards.

Designated ELD is a time during the regular school day where teachers work with EL children grouped by similar English proficiency levels and focus on critical language the students need to develop in order to be successful in school subjects, with a particular emphasis on developing academic language. Designated ELD time is an opportunity to focus on and delve deeper into the linguistic resources of English that EL children need to develop in order to engage with content, make meaning from it, and

create oral and written texts in ways that meet the expectations of the CA CCSS for ELA/Literacy, the California Preschool Learning Foundations, and other content standards. Accordingly, the CA ELD Standards, along with the English Language Development Foundations of the California Preschool Learning Foundations are the primary standards used during this designated time. However, the content focus is derived from other areas of the curriculum.

The main instructional emphases in designated ELD should be oral language development, including collaborative discussions, language awareness building, and a strong emphasis on general academic and domain-specific vocabulary, but other understandings about literary and informational texts enter into designated ELD instruction, as well. During designated ELD children should *discuss ideas and information* from ELA and other content areas using the language (e.g., vocabulary, grammatical structures) of those content areas and also *discuss the new language* they are learning to use. For example, a teacher might lead her students in a discussion about a word used to describe a character (e.g., She *stomped* out of the room.) and how the word creates a nuance in understanding that is different from other words (e.g., *walk*). This might lead to a discussion on the effect that different words have on readers/listeners and how speakers/writers can make choices about the language they use to achieve a different effect. For an extended discussion of how the CA ELD Standards are used throughout the day in tandem with the CA CCSS for ELA/Literacy and other content standards and as the principle standards during designated ELD, see the transitional kindergarten through grade one overview of the span above and Chapter 3.

ELA/Literacy and ELD Instruction in Action

The research-based implications for ELA/Literacy and ELD instruction have been outlined above in the Overview of the Span and in Chapter 2. In the following section, detailed examples illustrate how the principles and practices discussed in the preceding sections look in California classrooms. The vignettes provided below are not intended to present the only approaches to teaching and learning. Rather, they are intended to provide two concrete examples of how teachers might enact the CA CCSS for

ELA/Literacy and the CA ELD Standards in integrated and strategic ways that support deep learning for all students.

Both the CA CCSS for ELA/Literacy and the CA ELD Standards emphasize the importance of oral language development and frequent exposure to rich texts in the early years of schooling. Because young children's listening comprehension generally outpaces their ability to read independently, teacher read alouds are of critical importance. When teachers read aloud sophisticated literary and informational texts, they expose children to rich language (including vocabulary and complex grammatical structures), new ideas, and content knowledge the children may not be able to access on their own through independent reading. Rich read aloud experiences using complex texts in English are especially critical for EL children, who may not have these experiences at home. In bilingual programs, teacher read alouds in both languages of instruction are essential for biliteracy development. Equally important as listening to teacher read alouds and other opportunities to hear rich language models, young children need many opportunities to discuss the texts teachers read aloud. Strong oral language development through listening and speaking (or signed language development for deaf students) serves as a bridge to successful reading and writing.

When planning lessons, teachers should enact the principles and practices discussed in this chapter and throughout this framework. Lesson planning should incorporate the cultural, linguistic, and background experiences students bring to the classroom, the assessed needs of students, and look ahead to year-end and unit goals. The framing questions in Figure 4.18 provide a tool for planning teachers may find valuable.

Figure 4.18. Framing Questions for Lesson Planning

Framing Questions for All Students	Add for English Learners
• What are the big ideas and culminating performance tasks of the larger unit of study, and how does this lesson build toward them? • What are the learning targets for this lesson, and what should students be able to do at the end of the lesson? • Which clusters of CA CCSS for ELA/Literacy does this	• What are the English language proficiency levels of my students? • Which CA ELD Standards amplify the CA CCSS for ELA/Literacy at students'

lesson address? • What background knowledge, skills, and experiences do my students have related to this lesson? • How complex are the texts and tasks I'll use? • How will students make meaning, express themselves effectively, develop language, learn content? How will they apply or learn foundational skills? • What types of supports (such as scaffolding), accommodations, or modifications* will individual students need for effectively engaging in the lesson tasks? • How will my students and I monitor learning during and after the lesson, and how will that inform instruction?	English language proficiency levels? • What language might be new for students and/or present challenges? • How will students interact in meaningful ways and learn about how English works in collaborative, interpretive, and/or productive modes?
*Scaffolding, accommodations, and modifications are discussed in Chapters 3 and 9.	

ELA and ELD Vignettes

The following two vignettes illustrate how a teacher might implement the CA CCSS for ELA/Literacy and the CA ELD Standards using the framing questions provided in Figure 4.18. The first vignette for ELA instruction presents a glimpse into an instructional unit and a closer look at a lesson. In the vignette, the teacher uses a graphic organizer to support the children to orally retell multiple versions of a story she's read to them. The graphic organizer uses the terms *orientation, complication,* and *resolution* to organize the story grammar (e.g., characters, setting, plot) in sequence, and the terms provide a meaningful way of discussing text organization and features. The ELA Vignette is an example of appropriate instruction for all CA classrooms, and additional attention is provided for using the CA ELA/Literacy and CA ELD Standards in tandem for EL children. The second vignette presents a designated ELD lesson that builds into and from the ELA lesson in order to support EL children in their steady development of social and academic English.

ELA Vignette

Vignette 4.1: ELA Instruction in Transitional Kindergarten: Retelling and Rewriting Stories
Background: Ms. Campbell teaches in a two-way immersion school where the children learn in

both Spanish and English. Half of her class of twenty-four transitional kindergarteners is comprised of native English speakers, and half is comprised of EL children dominant in Spanish and at the Emerging and Expanding levels of English language proficiency. The school's goal is to promote biliteracy and an appreciation for cultural diversity. Ms. Campbell engages her students in many rich language activities every day, half of the time in English, and half of the time in Spanish. She reads aloud to her students daily in both languages. She collaboratively plans lessons with her TK and Kindergarten teaching colleagues, and the team routinely swaps lesson plans.

Lesson Context: Over the past two weeks, Ms. Campbell has read aloud to her students several versions of the story "The Three Little Pigs," both in English and in Spanish. The big ideas of the unit are that people tell stories to entertain and teach life lessons. At the end of the unit, the children will be able to retell stories using key details and vocabulary, applying their understandings of how stories are organized. They'll also be able to discuss some of the lessons the stories have taught.

Ms. Campbell's interactive read alouds have included much discussion about the characters and plot of the story, the vocabulary used, and similarities and differences between the versions. Last week, the class made a story map containing important details: the problem, characters, setting, and sequence of events. Yesterday, Ms. Campbell guided her students to orally retell the story with a partner, using pictures from the texts in cards, simple props, and the story map. Today, Ms. Cambell will guide the students to first retell and then collaboratively rewrite the story. The learning target and cluster of CCSS for ELA/Literacy and CA ELD Standards Ms. Campbell is focusing on are the following:

Learning Target: The children will retell and rewrite the story in order using colorful words and key details.

Primary CA CCSS for ELA/Literacy Addressed: *RL.K.2 - With prompting and support, retell familiar stories, including key details; SL.K.2 - Confirm understanding of a text read aloud ... W.K.3 - Use a combination of drawing, dictating, and writing to narrate a single event or several loosely linked events, tell about the events in the order in which they occurred ... L.K.6 - Use words and phrases acquired through conversations, reading and being read to, and responding to texts.*

Primary CA ELD Standards Addressed (Expanding level shown): *ELD.PI.K.12a - Retell texts and recount experiences using complete sentences and key words. ELD.PII.K.1 - Apply understanding of how different text types are organized to express ideas (e.g., how a story is organized sequentially with predictable stages … ELD.PII.K.2 - Apply understanding of how ideas, events, or reasons are linked throughout a text using a growing number of connecting words or phrases (e.g., next, after a long time) …*

Lesson Excerpts: Ms. Campbell calls her students to the carpet and reminds them that they've been reading lots of different versions of "The Three Little Pigs" and that yesterday, they spent a lot of time retelling the story. She tells them that today, they're going to use all of that great oral retelling to rewrite the story together. Using her computer tablet and a projector, Ms. Campbell projects five pictures depicting important events from the story. She asks her students to take turns with a partner retelling the story, using the pictures. She listens to the children as they share, noting the language they use, their ability to sequence events, and any misunderstandings.

> Ms. Campbell: Children, I really enjoyed listening to your retellings of story. Today, when I write down what you say, we need to make sure we get all those great details, like the characters and the setting, the problem, and the important events. Let's remind ourselves what we included in our story map.

Ms. Campbell points to the story map the class generated together (see Vignette 4.2 below for the story map) and guides them in chorally reading the information on it. Next, she sets the

purpose for engaging in the next task.

> Ms. Campbell: When we rewrite the story together, we also need to remember that one of the main purposes for telling stories is to entertain other people. So we have to make sure that the language we use is really colorful. For example, we can't just say that the pig built a house and the wolf blew it down. That would be kind of boring, wouldn't it? Instead, we need to use descriptive words and dialogue. We could say something like, "The wolf (taking a deep breath and inviting students to join her) huffed and he puffed and he blew the house down."
> Tania: He destroyed the house!
> Ms. Campbell: That's right! He destroyed the house. He absolutely demolished it. So, when we rewrite the story, let's make sure we use some of that colorful language and dialogue.

Ms. Campbell uses her computer tablet to project the "Story Rewriting Template" the class will use to rewrite the story. The template includes the same terms as the story map and groups the story grammar and sequence of events into three stages: *orientation, complication, resolution*. Rather than using the terms *beginning, middle,* and *end* (which all text types have), Ms. Campbell finds that using the terms *orientation, complication, resolution* helps her students discuss story organization because the terms are related to what's happening in the stages. She uses this template to guide the students to reconstruct the story with her. In the Story Rewriting Template below, the template Ms. Campbell uses with students is on the left, and her notes to herself about what each stage is are on the right.

Story Rewriting Template

Template to use with students	Ms. Campbell's notes for herself
Story Title:	*Orients* readers to the story - Introduces the characters and setting, foreshadows the problem
Orientation	
Complication	*Complicates* the story – Introduces the problem and shows how it things get *complicated* because of it Lots of events and dialogue here
Resolution	*Resolves* the problem in the story and wraps everything up
(Optional) Story Theme(s)	Articulates the life lesson(s) of the story

> Ms. Campbell: When I look at our notes in the story map, it says that at the beginning of the story, Mama pig says goodbye. The three little pigs go to build their houses. Should I just write that?
> Children: No!
> Ms. Campbell: What should I write then. Ysenia?
> Ysenia: We should start like, "Once upon a time."
> Ms. Campbell: Oh, that's a great way to start a story. What does everyone think?
> Children: (Nodding.) Yeah!
> Ms. Campbell: Okay then. (Writing.) Once upon a time … Then what? Turn to your partner and see if you can come up with our first sentence.

Ms. Campbell continues to guide the children to jointly reconstruct, or rewrite, the orientation stage of story, using the details in the story map and the colorful language of engaging storybooks. At the complication stage, she prompts the children to use language to signal to readers that something is shifting in the story.

> Ms. Campbell: Okay, so now that we have the orientation stage written, we need to get into the complication stage. Remember, that's where the problem comes in and where things get *complicated*. What was the problem in this story? Martín?

Martín: The wolf wants to eat the pigs, but they don't want to get eaten.
Ms. Campbell: Yes, but things got a little complicated because the houses the pigs built weren't so sturdy, were they? Were the pigs surprised when the wolf comes? How can we use words to show that?
Jordan: We could write the pigs built their houses. And then a wolf came.
Ms. Campbell: Ooh, that's a great idea, Jordan. When you said that, it made me think something was changing in the story, that there was a problem coming. Is there a word we could use to let the reader know that something is changing, that things are getting *complicated*?
Several Children: Suddenly!
Ms. Campbell: Yes, we learned that word "suddenly" when we were reading the "Three Little Pigs" stories last week, didn't we. That really tells us something is changing. So, how about if we write, "*Suddenly*, a wolf came along." How does that sound?
Children: (Nodding.)
Ariel: And he was very hungry.
Rashidi: Very, very hungry.
Juanita: ¡Era muy feroz!
Ms. Campbell: Yes, he was ferocious! Let's all say that word together - ferocious. Oh, that adds a lot of colorful detail. How about if I write, "Suddenly, a ferocious wolf came along, and he was very, very hungry." How's that? That really let's me know things are going to get complicated, doesn't it?

Ms. Campbell guides the children to use the colorful language from the stories they've been reading, including dialogue and general academic vocabulary.

Ms. Campbell: And what does the wolf do when he knocks on the first little pig's door? What does he say?
Children: Little pig, little pig, let me in!
Ms. Campbell: (Writing.) And how does the wolf say it? Does he whisper it, like this?
Children: No!
Sara: He roars!
Ms. Campbell: Does everyone like that? And then what does the little pig say?
Children: Not by the hair of my chinny chin chin!
Ms. Campbell: And how does he say that, Miguel?
Miguel: He scared.
Ms. Campbell: Yes, he's scared, isn't he. So does he shout it, like this (shouting). Does he whimper, like this (whimpering).
Miguel: I think he whimper.
Ms. Campbell: I think so, too!

When the children are finished reconstructing the story with Ms. Campbell, they read the story together. The next day, Ms. Campbell will guide them to rewrite the story in Spanish. She'll use the text from the reconstructed stories in English and Spanish to make a bilingual big book that will reside in the classroom library corner. She'll use photographs she's taken of the children acting out the story in the dramatic play center to illustrate the book.

Teacher Reflection and Next Steps:
Ms. Campbell brings her observation notes and the reconstructed stories to her collaborative planning time with her TK and K teaching colleagues. She shares the evidence she's collected to show her colleagues she guided her students to use new language. She also shares that she's noticed that some students have been using some of the new language in their oral retellings and in the stories they dictate to other adults who work in the classroom. One colleague asks Ms. Campbell if she can use the lesson plan and also if she can observe her the next time she engages her students in a story reconstruction activity.
Lesson adapted from Derewianka and Jones (2012) and Gibbons, P. (2002)

Resources
Websites:
- Reading Rockets has ideas for reading aloud (http://www.readingrockets.org).
- Doing What Works has ideas for interactive reading in preschool (dww.ed.gov).
- D.E.A.R. (drop everything and read) with families short video on teachingchannel.org.

Recommended reading:
Collins, M. F. (2012). Sagacious, sophisticated, and sedulous: The importance of discussing 50-cent words with preschoolers. *Young Children.* NAEYC.
Shedd, M.K. and Duke, N.K. (2008). The Power of Planning: Developing Effective Read Alouds. *Beyond the Journal: Young Children on the Web.* NAEYC.

Designated ELD Vignette

The example in vignette 4.1 illustrates good teaching for all students, with particular attention to the learning needs of English learners and other learners who have specialized learning needs. In addition to good first teaching with integrated ELD, EL children benefit from intentional and purposeful designated ELD instruction that builds into and from content instruction. The following vignette is an example of how designated ELD can build into and from the ELA instruction described in Vignette 4.1.

Vignette 4.2: Designated ELD Instruction in Transitional Kindergarten
Retelling Stories Using Past Tense Verbs and Expanded Sentences

Background: At the beginning of the year, six of Mrs. Campbell's students were at the early Emerging level of English language proficiency, and by this point in the year, they're able to express themselves using short sentences and learned phrases when they interact with peers in English. The other six were at the early Expanding level and are able to interact using English about a variety of topics and in more extended exchanges. Ms. Campbell and her colleagues plan their designated ELD lessons when they plan their ELA and other lessons in anticipation of and in response to their students' language development needs for these content areas.

Lesson Context: Ms. Campbell works with her twelve EL children in two small groups of six in order to provide designated ELD instruction that is tailored to their language learning needs. The other children in the class engage in tasks at learning centers, some of them supervised by parent volunteers. In ELA instruction, Ms. Campbell has just guided her students to rewrite, or jointly reconstruct, the story, "The Three Little Pigs" (see Vignette 4.1 above). As she observed her students during their oral retellings of the story in English, she noticed that her ELs at the Emerging level of English language proficiency were not always using past tense verbs or expanding their sentences with much detail. She'd like for the children to feel more confident orally retelling stories, so she plans to focus on these two areas of language in her ELD lessons this week. Ms. Campbell's learning targets and the cluster of CA ELD Standards in focus for today's lesson are the following:

Learning Target: The students will retell the story in order using past tense verbs and expanded sentences.

Primary CA ELD Standards Addressed (Emerging level shown): *ELD.PI.K.12a - Retell texts and recount experiences using complete sentences and key words; ELD.PII.K.3b - Use simple verb tenses appropriate for the text type and discipline to convey time … ; ELD.PII.K.4 - Expand noun phrases in simple ways (e.g., adding a familiar adjective to describe a noun) … ; ELD.PII.K.5 - Expand sentences with frequently used prepositional phrases (such as in the house, on the boat) to provide details (e.g., time, manner, place, cause) ...*

Lesson Excerpts:
Ms. Campbell invites the six EL children at the Emerging level of English language proficiency over to the teaching table. She tells them that today, they're going to get to retell the story of the "Three Little Pigs" again, and that this time, they're going to focus on adding a lot of details to their retellings and making sure listeners know that the story happened in he past. She points to the story map, which the class generated the previous week.

The Three Little Pigs		
Characters Three little pigs Big bad wolf Mama pig	*Setting* The countryside Next to the forest	*Problem* The wolf wants to eat the pigs, and the pigs don't want to be eaten.

Events

Once upon a time→----------→----------→----------→----------→The end

Orientation	Complication			Resolution
Mama pig says goodbye. The three little pigs go to build their houses.	The first little pig builds a house of straw. The wolf blows it down.	The second little pig builds a house of sticks. The wolf blows it down.	The third little pig builds a house of bricks. The wolf can't blow it down.	The third little pig tricks the wolf and the three pigs live together in the brick house.

Mrs. Campbell places the same five pictures the students have already used for orally retelling on the table in front of them, and she hands each of the children a popsicle stick puppet (three pigs and three wolves). She explains that when there's dialogue, they'll each have a chance to act out how the character is saying the dialogue using the puppets.

> Ms. Campbell: Children, let's retell the story together. The first time, I'm going to say what's happening, and then you're going to repeat what I say. I want you to notice how when we tell stories, we use words, or verbs, that tell us the story already happened, or it's in the past. So, we don't say, there *are* three little pigs. We say, there *were* three little pigs because it happened a long time ago.
> Maria: Once upon a time.
> Ms. Campbell: Yes, once upon a time means it happened a long time ago. And we don't say, the wolf *blows* the house down because that would mean it's happening right now. It happened a long time ago, in the story, so we say, the wolf *blew* their houses down. Say that with me – blew. I want you to listen for the words, or verbs, that let us know it happened a long time ago. I'll retell what's happening in each picture, and then you repeat after me. (Pointing to the first picture.) Once upon a time, there *were* three little pigs.

The children repeat what Ms. Campbell says as they retell the story using the pictures. In her retelling, she intentionally models expanded sentences (using adjectives and prepositional phrases) that contain details about the characters and events.

> Ms. Campbell: The *frightened little* pig ran *into his house*.
> Two of the Children: The frighten little pig run to his house.
> Ms. Campbell: Let's say that again. Listen carefully. The *frightened little* pig ran *into his house*.
> Children: The *frightened little* pig ran *into his house*.

After the children have retold the story with Ms. Campbell, she asks them to work in partners to retell the story (one partner has a wolf, and the other has a pig). As the children retell the story, Ms. Campbell listens carefully and provides strategic scaffolding.

Maria: The pig saw the wolf and he scared and he ran away.
Ms. Campbell: Yes, that's right. And how can we let people who are listening know a little more about the pig and the wolf? Are they little, are they big, are they nice, are they scary?
Maria: The little pig saw the big, scary wolf and he scared. He ran away to his house.
Rafael: The wolf huff and he puff and he blew the house down.
Ms. Campbell: That's wonderful that you said *blew*, Rafael! That let's us know the story happened in the past. But remember we have to show with all the action words that the story happened in the past, or a long time ago, so we have to say the wolf huff*ed* and he puff*ed* and he *blew* the house down. Say it with me.

Ms. Campbell stresses the –ed suffix in the words "huffed" and "puffed" to make sure Rafael hears the endings, and she has him say the sentence with her to make sure he has guided practice. She doesn't correct everything the children say, as she knows this might make them feel overly self-conscious and detract from their focus on meaning making. Instead, she is strategic with her corrective feedback and focuses primarily on past tense verbs and expanded sentences.

As the children retell the story, Ms. Campbell uses a rubric based on the CA ELD Standards, to guide her observation of their oral retellings. The rubric provides her with information about individual students' progress in particular areas of English language development, and this information helps her plan subsequent lessons intentionally and provide strategic scaffolding during content instruction.

Teacher Reflection and Next Steps:
Based on information from her oral retelling observation rubric, Ms. Campbell makes a note to continue to work on past tense verbs and expanded sentences with these six children in designated ELD for the rest of the week. She also makes a note to listen to the children carefully over the next couple of weeks as they retell stories during ELA instruction and at literacy stations to see if they begin to use past tense verbs and how they expand their sentences independently. She sends home with all of the children in the class a packet that contains the five pictures from the story, popsicle stick puppets, and the text of "The Three Little Pigs" in English and in Spanish with ideas for parents to read aloud and facilitate oral retellings at home in both languages. For these six children, she adds instructions for parents (in Spanish) to support their children to use past tense verbs and expanded sentences in English.
Lesson adapted from Derewianka and Jones (2012)

Resources
Websites:

- Colorín Colorado has resources for ELs in preschool and TK (http://www.colorincolorado.org).
- NAEYC has many "Messages in a Backpack" in both English and Spanish about how families can support their children's language and literacy development (http://www.naeyc.org).

Recommended reading:
Berkowitz, D. (2011). Oral Storytelling: Building community through dialogue, engagement, and problem solving. Young Children. NAEYC.

Conclusion

The information and ideas in this grade-level section are provided to guide teachers of transitional kindergarten children in their instructional planning. Recognizing

California's richly diverse student population is critical for instructional and program planning and delivery. Teachers are responsible for educating a variety of learners, including **advanced learners**, **students with disabilities**, **ELs at different English language proficiency levels**, **Standard English learners**, and other **culturally and linguistically diverse learners**, as well as **students experiencing difficulties** with one or another of the themes presented in this chapter (meaning making, effective expression, language development, content knowledge, and foundational skills).

It is beyond the scope of a curriculum framework to provide guidance on meeting the learning needs of every child because each child comes to teachers with unique needs, histories, and circumstances. Teachers must know their students well through appropriate assessment practices and collaborations with families in order to design effective instruction for them. They need to adapt and refine instruction as appropriate for individual learners. Information about meeting the needs of diverse learners, scaffolding, and modifying or adapting instruction is provided in Chapters 3 and 9.

Some children have had extensive experiences with language and literacy (in English or another language) prior to entering transitional kindergarten. They should not simply repeat those experiences in transitional kindergarten; instead they are challenged to engage with texts and other materials that interest and stretch them, extend their skills with printed language in meaningful contexts, and communicate and collaborate with peers and others (within and beyond the classroom) on interesting projects and learning experiences in all areas of the curricula.

Some children have had fewer experiences with language and literacy prior to entering transitional kindergarten. They, too, are provided appropriately challenging instruction in an environment that facilitates their progress toward the kindergarten standards and that contributes to their understandings of the relevance and power of language and literacy in the curricula and their lives.

With careful planning, articulation, and collaboration (see Figure 4.19) , transitional kindergarten can meet its promise of preparing children for success in the school years ahead with a unique curriculum and developmentally appropriate instruction that builds on children's natural curiosity about themselves, their peers, and their world and that actively engages them in learning.

Transitional kindergarten children are just beginning their journey in school. As young children, they bring the joys and enthusiasms of new travelers to the enterprise of schooling. May they gain new confidence about the possibilities that await them in future years.

Figure 4.19. Collaboration

Collaboration: A Necessity

Frequent and meaningful collaboration with colleagues and parents/families is critical for ensuring that all students meet the expectations of the CA CCSS for ELA/Literacy and the CA ELD Standards. Teachers are at their best when they frequently collaborate with their teaching colleagues to plan instruction, analyze students' work, discuss students' progress, integrate new learning into their practice, and refine lessons or identify interventions when students experience difficulties. Students are at their best when teachers enlist the collaboration of parents and families as partners in their children's education. Schools are at their best when educators are supported by administrators and other support staff to implement the type of instruction called for in this framework. School districts are at their best when teachers across the district have an expanded professional learning community they can rely upon as thoughtful partners and for tangible instructional resources. More information about these types of collaboration can be found in Chapter 11 and throughout this framework.

Kindergarten

Kindergarten is a highly anticipated year by many children and their families. It is a time of hope and expectation, much of it centered on gaining independence with written language. The kindergarten ELA/literacy program is designed to facilitate children's acquisition of the skills, knowledge, and dispositions that set them on the path to become lifelong readers and writers and effective communicators in the global 21st century. The CA ELD Standards provide additional guidance to teachers for supporting their EL students to engage with content across the curriculum and to develop proficiency in English.

In kindergarten, children learn the purposes of print through engagement with a wide variety of texts across content areas and in their own attempts to express their ideas and knowledge in writing. They recognize that reading is a meaning-making act and are provided instruction in comprehension that promotes higher-level thinking about texts and topics. They make great advances in the acquisition of vocabulary and in the understanding and use of varied and increasingly complex sentence structures, and they use their developing language to share ideas about texts and topics under study. Instruction includes a significant focus on how print works, and kindergarten children gain an understanding of the logic of the alphabetic code. At the same time, children have rich exposure to excellent literature that stirs their imaginations and ignites their curiosity about their worlds. ELA/Literacy and ELD instruction are part of a much broader kindergarten program that provides rich, engaging learning experiences that build content knowledge in science, social studies, mathematics, and the arts.

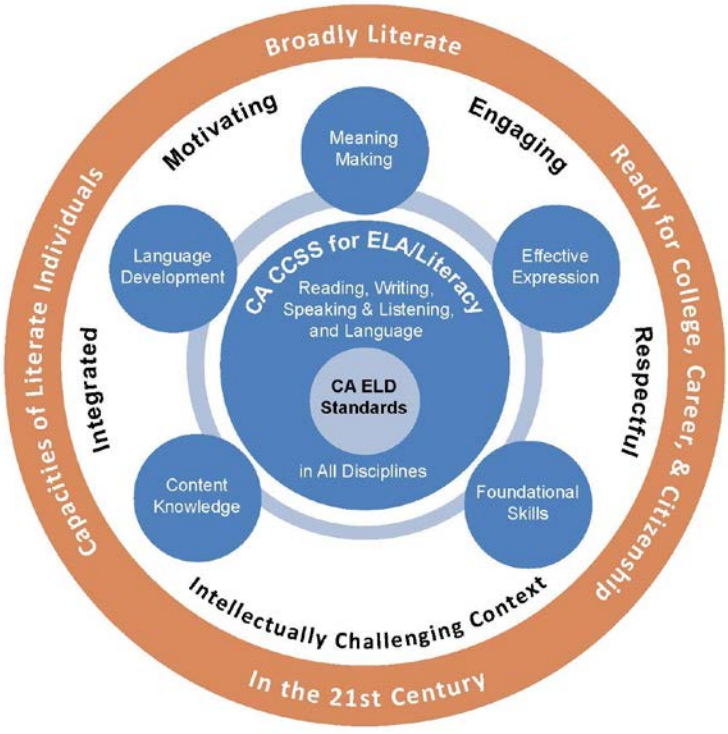
This grade-level section provides an overview of the key themes of ELA/literacy and ELD instruction and then focuses on ELD instruction. Snapshots and vignettes bring several of the concepts to life. The kindergarten section concludes with listings of the CA CCSS for ELA/Literacy and CA ELD Standards for the grade level.

Key Themes of ELA/Literacy and ELD Instruction

Kindergarten ELA/literacy and ELD instruction should be age-appropriate, carefully sequenced, thoughtfully planned, and focused on clear objectives needs. Furthermore, instruction should occur in an environment that is responsive to the social,

emotional, physical, linguistic, and cognitive needs of young children as it conveys the thrill of becoming literate. This section includes discussions of the key themes of ELA/Literacy and ELD instruction as they apply to kindergarten: **meaning making**, **language development**, **effective expression, content knowledge, and foundational skills**. (See 4.20.) These themes are situated in a motivating, engaging, respectful and intellectually challenging context, and they are integrated across the curricula. Children's achievement of the grade-level standards reflected in these themes are a preliminary--and important--step toward their ultimate realization of the capacities of literate individuals (discussed in Chapter 1) and their readiness for college, careers, and citizenship (discussed in Chapter 2) in the complex, information- and technologically-rich, and global world of the 21st century (discussed in Chapter 3). Moreover, the ELA/literacy instruction called for in this framework in every grade level contributes to children's progress in becoming broadly literate as children engage deeply as readers and viewers of a wide range of high-quality texts and media (discussed in Chapter 3).

Figure 4.20. Goals, themes and Context for Implementing the CA CCSS for ELA/Literacy and the CA ELD Standards



Meaning Making

As discussed throughout this framework, meaning making is central in each of the strands of the CA CCSS for ELA/Literacy and in all aspects of the CA ELD Standards. In this section, the focus is on meaning making with text.

Meaning Making with Text

Enjoying text, appreciating its role in daily life, and learning from it are goals of reading instruction. Thus, meaning making--or comprehension--is crucial and is a dominant focus in the ELA/literacy program. In the kindergarten year, text comprehension instruction occurs primarily during times when the teacher is reading aloud to the entire group, small groups, or individuals. While reading aloud, teachers periodically engage in "thinking aloud," initially with simple texts and eventually with more challenging texts. In doing so, teachers model the strategies they employ to make sense of print. For example, knowing that predicting is an effective comprehension strategy, teachers occasionally pause as they read aloud to comment on what they anticipate will happen next. Importantly, they provide their reasons for their predictions, referring explicitly to language or illustrations in the text and making obvious the links between their predictions and the text. Knowing that visualizing contributes to comprehension, they comment on what they see in their "mind's eye" at certain points in the text. Knowing that monitoring comprehension is important, they reread some sentences or slightly longer sections of text that are especially dense or that include unusual words, and they explain to children that stopping to reread a difficult passage may help with understanding. Questioning, retelling and summarizing, and drawing inferences, too, are key comprehension strategies that should be modeled (Shanahan, and others 2010).

In addition to observing their teachers' use of strategies, children are taught to utilize the strategies themselves. As teachers read aloud, they prompt children to share with the group their questions, inferences, predictions, and so forth. Teachers support children as they provide the reasons for their thinking. They ask text dependent

questions that take children into the text and that foster inference-making and critical thinking. (See Overview of the Span in this chapter for a discussion of text dependent questions.)

Teacher guidance and modeling are vital. For example, to build a sense of story structure with narrative text, kindergarten teachers begin with simple stories, those that have only a few characters, a single setting, and a straightforward plot. During a second or third reading of the story, teachers guide children in thinking closely about the structure. They may create a story map, prompting and supporting children to contribute their thoughts to a chart, such as the one in Figure 4.21 developed for *Uncle Peter's Amazing Chinese Wedding* by Lenore Look.

Figure 4.21. Story Map for *Uncle Peter's Amazing Chinese Wedding*

Characters	A young girl, her Uncle Peter, his fiancée Stella, and family members
Setting	Uncle Peter's home and Stella's home on their wedding day
Problem	Peter is getting married and his niece worries that she will no longer be his special girl.
Action	The girl participates in the wedding activities, deliberately ruins the wedding tea, tells her mother her fears, and the wedding occurs.
Resolution	Stella tells the young girl she is happy to have a new niece. Uncle Peter calls her his special girl.
Theme	There is no limit on people's love.

When teachers engage children with interesting stories and entertaining poetry, and when they pique children's curiosity and model enthusiasm for and attention to ideas and craft, they are helping children understand the purpose of printed materials: to communicate ideas. Children learn that books and other printed media are interesting, entertaining, and instructive.

The reading standards for informational text are similar to those for reading literature. They, however, focus on the genre that will predominate later schooling and life: informational text. The standards call for kindergarten children, with prompting and support, to ask and answer questions about essential elements of the text, identify the main topic of a text and retell key details of the text, and describe the connection

between two individuals, events, ideas, or pieces of information in a text (RI.K.1-3). With prompting and support, children ask and answer questions about unknown words, identify the front and back covers and the title of a book, name the author and illustrator and define their roles in presenting ideas or information in a text, and describe the relationship between illustrations and the text (RI.K.4-7). They identify basic similarities in and differences between two texts on the same topic, such as illustrations, descriptions, or procedures (RI.K.9). With assistance, children also identify the reasons an author gives to support points in a text (RI.K.8). This task is an important precursor to constructing evidence-based arguments, which comes into play strongly later in elementary school.

Just as they have many experiences to engage with literary texts (such as stories and poems), kindergarten children should have many opportunities to actively engage in group reading activities focused on a range of informational text. They learn to draw on their prior knowledge of the information and events in texts and to use the illustrations and context to make predictions about text.

EL kindergarteners benefit from and participate in all of the instructional activities described above. Some EL children may not have had experiences actively engaging in group reading activities where they exchange information and share their ideas and opinions with a partner. This lack of experience may prevent them from participating in discussions, which limits their ability to develop oral language. Teachers can ensure that there is equity of participation in discussion activities by providing structured routines and frequent opportunities for students to interact with texts and peers. For example, during a read aloud, when a teacher asks the class a comprehension question, instead of calling on raised hands, she might ask all students to think about the question for a few seconds and then ask the children to discuss their thinking with a partner. This “think-pair-share” routine can be loosely structured (turn and talk) or highly structured (e.g., using designated partners, identified roles, sentence frames) depending on the teacher’s purpose. If she wants students to use a specific word when they share, she would provide an open sentence frame with that word in it (e.g., *Bees are extraordinary because*___.). In order to support her EL students to ask questions, she might also model how to ask initial questions (Why are bees extraordinary?) and

follow up questions (*Can you say more? Can you explain how/why?*) and encourage students to ask these same types of questions in order to extend their conversations, rather than merely saying one sentence. Initially, when students are learning a routine like "think-pair-share," starting small with one sentence is a good idea, but soon, teachers should encourage their students to move into more extended conversations about content where they ask, as well as answer, questions. Teachers can encourage parents and families of EL children to read aloud and ask their children the same types of questions in the primary language. In addition to fostering biliteracy, the development of comprehension skills in the home/primary language enhances comprehension in English because these types of skills transfer across languages.

Language Development

As the foundation of literacy and all learning (and social competence), language development is crucial, particularly the development of academic language. Children's language expands considerably as they engage with texts and learn to discuss and communicate their ideas and questions about texts, experiences, and concepts. Language development is a high priority in kindergarten.

In kindergarten, teachers do the following to support language development, including the acquisition of academic language:

- Use sophisticated, but not excessively challenging, language in meaningful interactions with children. For example, when greeting children in the morning, they say, "It's a spectacular morning, isn't it?" When providing direction on how to fold a piece of paper, they say, "Make a vertical fold," instead of "Fold it hot dog style."
- Read aloud daily from a broad range of literary and information texts, including those that are related to content area curricula and those that reflect children's interests. Some texts are selected because they promote thinking and reflection and model rich language, and some are selected because after several readings,

they can be retold by children when holding the book or have props as memory aids. Some texts, such as poems or pattern books, are selected because they allow children to practice the rhythm, tempo, and pauses of English as they read along with their teacher.

- Discuss language, including the interesting words, sentence constructions, and more extended discourse structures in read aloud texts, thus building language awareness.
- Provide ample time for children to interact in both teacher-directed and child-centered contexts about texts, investigations, discoveries, and other learning experiences throughout the day.
- Provide independent time in intellectually stimulating centers of children's choice that encourage language exchanges, such as science and art exploration centers.
- Facilitate children's collaboration in joint projects, such as organizing a center together for future use by peers or working together to draw a map of the classroom.
- Engage children in guided and self-directed sociodramatic play, providing simple props, offering occasional prompts to extend their language, and modeling the use of puppets to retell or create stories.
- Engage children in interesting learning experiences that evoke questions and expressions of wonder.
- Engage in multiple exchanges with individual children daily, using decontextualized language (that is, language focused on issues beyond the here and now).
- Engage children in conversations about text, asking high-level text-dependent questions that elicit rather than limit language. See Figure 4.22.

Figure 4.22. Questions for *The Little Red Hen*

Questions that Limit Language	Questions that Elicit Language
• What color is the hen? • Will the others help her? • What did they say? • Is she happy with the others? • How many animals are on this page? What is this animal? • Did they get to have bread at the end of the story? • Do you like the story?	• What is the little red hen planning? • What just happened? • What do you suppose the little red hen is thinking? What makes you think so? • What does the author do to make us aware that that little red hen is unhappy? • How does the author help us understand what a mill is? • What does the hen do once her bread is ready to eat? Why? • What do you think the author is telling us?

The focus on oral language development in English is important for all children, but it is critical for ELs and children who have not been exposed elsewhere to the kind of language found in written texts (Dickinson and Smith 1994). Oral language development in the primary language should also be promoted and fostered, whether through a formal biliteracy school program, an extracurricular heritage language program, or in the home with close collaboration and support provided by teachers.

During kindergarten, EL children make tremendous growth in their English language development when teachers pay attention to how language works and build children's language awareness. Children who have an awareness of the various types of language resources that are available to them (e.g., when to use *prance* versus *strut* or how to add details to a sentence with a prepositional phrase, such as *at my house*) and how these resources are used to achieve specific purposes for particular audiences are in a better position to make informed choices when speaking and writing.

Vocabulary Instruction

Teachers ensure vocabulary instruction is a key component of the kindergarten program. They implement each of the four aspects of vocabulary instruction described in Chapter 3: They provide extensive experiences with language, establish word conscious environments, teach targeted vocabulary, and provide instruction in word-learning strategies.

Extensive experiences with language are described above in the context of overall language development. Children have numerous opportunities to converse with peers and adults while engaged in stimulating learning experiences, participate in structured discussions, and to listen to and discuss books read aloud.

Word conscious environments are those in which children and adults notice and discuss words. They may create word walls, word jars, or word journals in which they record words that are important, fascinating, or that otherwise capture their attention. They talk about words in different contexts, and notice relationships among words and similarities among words in different languages. They think about author's choices and their own choices.

Educators selectively identify individual words to teach directly. They draw words from texts or subject matter and provide child-friendly definitions. Children may act out words, render drawings that capture word meanings, or generate charts of multiple meaning words (L.K.4) or antonyms (L.K.5b) or develop semantic maps of related words. The target words are used repeatedly and children discover and learn about their applicability in numerous contexts.

Another component of the multi-faceted instructional program is teaching word learning strategies, such as using word parts to determine the meaning of words. For example, kindergarteners learn about the meaning of the prefix *un-* (L.K.4b). This understanding helps them determine the meaning of other words with the same prefix. Teachers deliberately model the use of words with *un-* (such as *unable, unwilling, unhappy*) in the classroom context to reinforce meaning. They also select books that include words with the prefix, such as *Something from Nothing* by Phoebe Gilman (1992) in which an "unsightly" blanket is described and they discuss the meaning of the word. They write several words with the prefix on a chart, soliciting contributions from children, and discuss their meanings. They understand that the prefix adds meaning, specifically, in this case it means "not." They later draw attention, as appropriate in the moment, to words with the prefix when they are used in texts and discussions and they prompt children's use of words with the prefix. Instruction occurs in contexts in which meaningful communication is the focus, but also includes additional explorations of words.

Effective Expression

Adults experience more success in college, careers, and civic participation when they can express their opinions and knowledge clearly and coherently. Kindergarten programs contribute to the stair-step development of effective expression by ensuring that students are provided excellent instruction in writing, discussing, and presenting as well as using language conventions.

Writing

Children's emerging writing abilities are exciting to observe. These abilities do not emerge without guidance and instruction in a writing-rich environment. Children learn to write when their teachers share excellent examples of writing, model writing themselves, provide many opportunities for children to respond in writing to texts and learning experiences in the content areas, and provide explicit instruction.

A great deal of writing in kindergarten occurs when children, as an entire class, in small groups, or as individuals, dictate their ideas to an adult who records them. They also express themselves in writing independently, beginning with marks and scribbles that soon become strings of letters. Eventually, as they learn about the sound structure of language (that is, they become phonemically aware) and about the symbols that represent sounds (that is, the letters of the alphabet), children begin to use that knowledge in their writing. Words are phonetically spelled at this stage of learning. This is an important milestone: children gain an understanding of the alphabetic principle, which is crucial for independence in both writing and reading. Dear and hard-of-hearing children whose primary language is ASL follow a different path. ASL, fingerspelling, reading, and writing skills are interwoven and come together for deaf students. The merging of these skills enables the development of the alphabetic principle for deaf students (Baker, 2010).

In kindergarten, teachers do the following to support children's writing development:

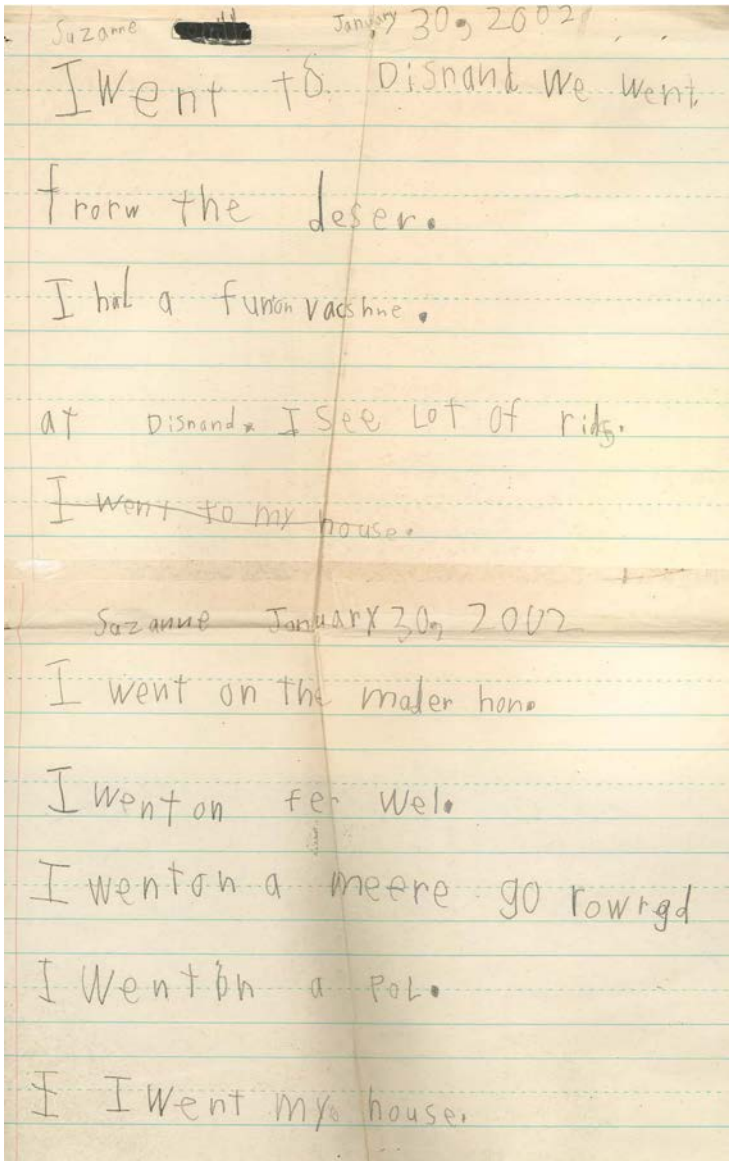
- Read aloud daily from a broad range of literary and informational texts, highlighting their varied purposes (such as to share an opinion, inform or explain, or tell a story), structures or organizations (such as narrative, description, cause and effect), and features (such as tables of contents). Ample familiarity with different types and purposes of text will facilitate children's ability to write their own texts of varied types for varied purposes. Some texts serve as "mentor" texts, that is, excellent models of a targeted type or structure of writing.
- Provide a well-stocked writing area where children can find a variety of writing instruments (such as pencils, pens, colored pencils, chalk), surfaces on which to write (such as postcards, paper, charts, sticky labels), envelopes, clipboards, and a computer. Include examples of a variety of texts (such as letters, posters, lists, books, magazines, signs).
- Provide writing materials in all areas of the classroom and outdoors, as appropriate: in the puppet area, science center, painting center, and other areas.
- Model writing daily. Write for real purposes, such as to make a request of the front office staff, share information with families, record the schedule for the day, make a list of items to take home, appeal to a community member for assistance with a research project.
- Engage children in constructing and reconstructing text, guiding the children to collaboratively tell or retell a story or other type of text while writing it for them (e.g., on chart paper or using a document reader).
- Provide opportunities for children to write in response to texts, particularly after sharing their ideas orally.
- Write as part of learning in content areas, such as when children draw their observations of a leaf and then dictate language to describe it or when the children share their comments about the value of classroom rules during a social studies lesson.
- Teach children explicitly how to write letters, words, and connected text.

The goal of writing instruction in kindergarten is to support young children's abilities to express their thoughts in increasingly skilled ways, as well as to support their awareness of the purposes for writing, different text types, and audiences. While

copying letters and words may be part of direct instruction (e.g., for forming letters or encoding), this is not the center of instruction. Importantly, children begin expressing themselves through writing from the first day in kindergarten.

An example of a kindergartener's narrative follows along with an annotation. Clearly, this child has learned how stories work (note the opening, detailed events, and closing) and knows and can use the symbols and basic conventions of the English writing system (that is, letters of the alphabet, capitalization, and punctuation). Examples of informative/explanatory and argument (opinion) writing are available in Appendix C of the CCSS for ELA/Literacy (NGO/CCSSO 2010).

Figure 4.23. Narrative Writing Sample, CCSS for ELA/Literacy, Appendix C.



Annotation (page 10, Appendix C, NGO/CCSSO)

The writer of this piece

- establishes a situation by naming a place.
  - *Disnand* (Disneyland)
- recounts several loosely linked events and the order in which they occurred.
  - *I had a fun on vacshne* (vacation). . . . *I see lot* (lots) *of rids* (rides). *I went on the mader hon* (Matterhorn)*. . . . I went my house.*
- provides a reaction to what happened.
  - *I had a fun on vacshne* (vacation).
- offers a sense of closure.
  - *I went my house.*
- demonstrates command of some of the conventions of standard written English.
  - This piece illustrates consistent control of beginning-of-sentence capitalization and end-of-sentence punctuation. The writer also uses capital letters appropriately in the title of the piece.

The CA ELD Standards highlight skills that support ELs' progress in writing.

Discussing

By the end of kindergarten, children are expected follow agreed-upon rules for engaging in discussions. That is, they listen to others and take turns speaking about the topics and texts under discussion (SL.K.1a). In addition, they are able continue a conversation through multiple exchanges (SL.K.1b). And, they ask and answer questions to seek and provide information and clarification (SL.K.2-3). They learn to speak audibly and express their thoughts, feelings, and ideas clearly (SL.K.6). Kindergarten teachers are aware of the work done in preschools and transitional kindergartens toward achievement of these expectations and they build on previous practices. (See Volume 1 of the California Preschool Learning Foundations, Volume 1 of the California Preschool Curriculum Framework and the Transitional Kindergarten section of this chapter.)

During the kindergarten year, children engage in multiple discussions daily. Discussions occur in pairs, small groups, and with the entire class. Some discussions are adult-led. Others are conducted by the children, with teacher guidance and monitoring. Teachers use a variety of structures and ensure that all children have ample

opportunities to contribute, not just the most outspoken children. Furthermore, they ensure that children engage in discussions with diverse partners. That is they do not always turn to the same one or two neighbors to respond to a prompt or share their thinking. They interact in partners or small groups with all children in the classroom on numerous occasions and in numerous contexts. They also may have opportunities to engage in discussions with distant others through the use of technology.

Effective discussions do not just happen. They require a skillful teacher who teaches children *how* to engage in discussions with peers and others. For example, teachers:

- Teach and demonstrate discussion behaviors that indicate respect for others, such as listening closely, not interrupting, responding to comments, encouraging others to contribute, and acknowledging and appreciating all participants' thinking on the topic
- Explain effective discussion contributions, such as comments that are related to the topic and build on others' remarks and questions that serve to clarify or that request elaboration (that is, staying on topic)
- Engage the children in reflection on the discussion process, such as asking them to consider what was helpful in keeping a discussion on target and how might a discussion have been improved
- Provide gentle guidance during discussions, as appropriate

Discussions occur across the curricula; students discuss books of all genres that are read aloud and they discuss learning experiences in math, social studies, science, and the arts.

As discussed in the Overview of the Span of this chapter and the Transitional Kindergarten section teachers prepare questions that elicit higher-order thinking and at times they provide sentence starters as prompts for discussions. They also may provide images, including photographs and illustrations, that the children discuss in small groups or partners. For example, after the children have engaged in the "A Day in My Life" unit of the California Education and the Environment Initiative Curriculum in which they learn about the concept of natural resources, small groups are given images of resources (those that accompany the unit and more, as appropriate) and prompted to

draw upon the images to discuss in their groups what they learned during the unit. They may respond to prompts such as, “This image shows _____” “This image is important because _____” and “This image is related to the topic of *resources* in that _____”

The kinds of discourse skills expected in academic conversations can be fostered when teachers a) establish routines and expectations for equitable and accountable conversations (e.g., think-pair-share); b) carefully construct questions that promote extended discussions about academic content (e.g., questions that require students to describe or explain something for which they have sufficient background knowledge); and c) provide appropriate linguistic support (e.g., a sentence frame, such as “At school, I'm determined to ___ because ____.”). Sentence frames are an ideal way to support young children to use both academic vocabulary and increasingly complex grammar in meaningful ways as they discuss content and texts. With strategic scaffolding, EL children can learn to adopt particular ways of using English that approach the more “literate” ways of communicating that are highly valued in school (Dutro and Kinsella 2010, Gibbons 2009, Merino and Scarcella 2005, Schleppegrell 2010).

Presenting

Kindergarteners have regular opportunities to present their ideas, opinions, and knowledge to their peers. They describe familiar people, places, things, and events and, with prompting and support, provide additional detail (SL.K.4). They add drawings or other visual displays to descriptions as desired to provide additional detail (SL.K.5). They speak audibly and express thoughts, feelings, and ideas clearly (SL.K. 6). Young children, like all children and youth, should be provided a psychologically safe environment in which to present, and they should have choices about the topics and, at times, the manner of their presentations. Some presentations are given individually and some are a collaborative endeavor. See the Transitional Kindergarten section of this chapter for a discussion.

Using Language Conventions

The use of conventions contributes to effective expression. Language conventions in grammar and usage taught in kindergarten (L.K.1) include the following:

a. Print many upper- and lowercase letters
b. Use frequently occurring nouns and verb
c. Form regular plural nouns orally by adding /s/ or /es/
d. Understand and use question words (interrogatives)
e. Use the most frequently occurring prepositions
f. Produce and expand complete sentences in shared language activities

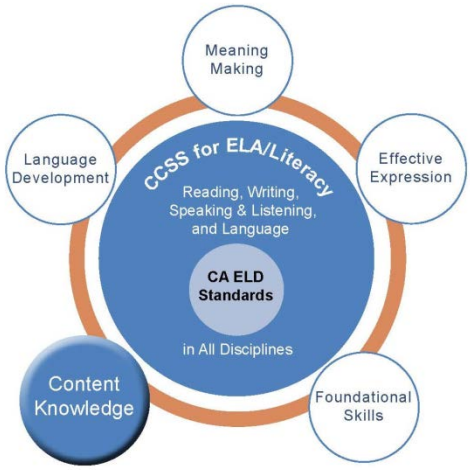
Conventions of capitalization, punctuation, and spelling (L.K.2) writing include:

a. Capitalize the first word in a sentence and the pronoun *I*
b. Recognize and name end punctuation
c. Write a letter or letters for most consonant and short-vowel sounds
d. Spell simple words phonetically, drawing on knowledge of sound-letter relationships

Some conventions are clearly related to language development as children expand their grammatical knowledge and vocabulary. Spelling, at this time in its developmental progression, is particularly intertwined with the development of foundational skills in reading--knowledge of the alphabet, phonemic awareness, and letter-sound relationships. Decoding and encoding should be taught in ways that reflect this reciprocal relationship. (In subsequent grade levels, spelling instruction is more closely connected with instruction in morphology. See the Overview of the Span in Chapter 5 for a discussion of the stages of spelling development, including the beginning stages typical of children in transitional kindergarten through grade one.) Conventions are integrated into each strand of the language arts and applied to every subject matter.

Content Knowledge

The kindergarten program includes thoughtful, systematic attention to the content areas, which is guided by California's subject matter content standards and adopted instructional materials. Teachers provide instruction in the content and involve children in investigations, experiments, and explorations. In addition, both for literacy learning and content



learning, teachers provide children with many opportunities for wide reading (largely through teacher read alouds), meaningful interactions with informational texts, and participation in shared research projects. See prior Content Knowledge sections in this chapter. See also Chapter 3 for a discussion of wide and independent reading.

Foundational Skills

In kindergarten, children gain an understanding of print concepts, develop phonological awareness, and acquire initial phonics and word recognition skills (RF.K.1-3). In addition, they develop fluency appropriate for this level (RF.K.4). These foundational skills are vital for independence with written language, and instructional programs must include a clear systematic focus on their development.

Print Concepts

Although many children will enter kindergarten with an understanding of print concepts, some will not. The amount of attention devoted to this Reading substrand of the CA CCSS for ELA/Literacy necessarily depends upon the learner's existing knowledge. By the end of kindergarten, all children need to acquire an understanding of the organization and basic features of print (RF.K.1), including (a) printed English is read and written from left to right and from top to bottom and, in the case of books, page by page from front to back, (b) spoken words are represented in written language by specific sequences of letters, (c) written words are separated by spaces, and (d) the names and shapes all upper and lower case letters of the alphabet.

Children learn these concepts through frequent and meaningful experiences with printed language. Teachers model directionality by sweeping their hands along the lines of text as they read aloud from big books and as they write for and with children on charts and other surfaces. They point to text as they read aloud and as they engage children in shared writing activities. They draw children's attention to letter sequences and to spaces between words as they print. "Let's leave space between "Our" and "Pet" in the title because these are two different words." Children learn about the alphabetic

symbols, seeing them used to communicate their ideas in print and learning letter names and shapes through direct instruction. ("Watch how I write this. You try it.") Teachers use appropriate terminology (such as *letter, word, period*) and encourage children's use of these academic terms.

The kindergarten program also exposes children to a range of print forms and functions across genres of text. Children interact with books, magazines, Web pages (perhaps projected onto a large screen), online documents, pamphlets and more. They are exposed to charts, tables, indexes, glossaries, tables of contents, links, and other features of printed and digital text. Teachers share a wide variety of texts through read alouds and through placement in class libraries and centers, ensuring the exposure that is critical to building children's familiarity with a variety of text types and text features.

Because concepts about print develop when children interact with print, classrooms are print-rich environments. Print is displayed on boards, in centers, and in class and school libraries. Writing surfaces, such as chart paper, notepads, white boards, and writing tools, such as markers, pencils, crayons, and keyboards, are readily available. Print plays a functional role in daily routines, such as when the day's schedule is written and discussed, children's name cards are sorted to indicate which of several small groups they are in, checklists display tasks to be accomplished, areas (e.g., *Library*) are labeled and guidelines (e.g., *Put caps back on markers*.) are posted.

It is critical that teachers are aware that some children's understandings of the basic features of print may be well developed upon entry to kindergarten depending upon their prior experiences at home, preschool, or transitional kindergarten. Other children may have less well developed concepts about print. Teachers must be skilled at assessment and provide instruction that is appropriate for the child, neither belabored nor given less attention than needed. Teaching the letters of the alphabet to children who entered kindergarten with knowledge of letter names, shapes, and sounds is inappropriate. Likewise, moving too quickly through letters with children who have limited exposure to the symbols is problematic. Both circumstances are likely to cause frustration and disengagement.

Phonological Awareness

It is critical that sufficient attention is given to developing children's phonological awareness during kindergarten (RF.K.2). The focus is on general phonological sensitivity early in the year as children engage in rhyming activities and manipulate syllables and onsets and rimes. However, phonemic awareness becomes a systematic and important target as the year progresses.(Deaf and hard-of-hearing students who do not have complete access to the letter-sound correspondences in English use an alternate pathway to understanding the alphabetic code in English.)

By the end of kindergarten, children demonstrate the understandings of spoken words, syllables, and phonemes (RF.K.2a-f) displayed in Figure 4.24.

Figure 4.24. Kindergarten Standards in Phonological Awareness with Examples

Standard	Examples
a. recognize and produce rhyming words	*Recognize*: They indicate that *fish* and *dish* rhyme and that *fish* and *plate* do not. *Produce*: They name words that rhyme with a target word, saying *sun* or *bun* when asked for a word that rhymes with *run*.
b. count, pronounce, blend, and segment syllables in spoken words	*Count*: They indicate that the spoken word *table* has two syllables. *Pronounce*: They say the syllables in the spoken word *carpet*: /car/-/pet/. *Blend*: They blend (or put together the parts) the individually spoken syllables /tea/-/cher/ to form the spoken word *teacher.* *Segment*: They segment the spoken word *elephant,* pronouncing separately its three syllables.
c. blend and segment onsets and rimes of single-syllable spoken word	*Blend*: They say *spin* when asked to blend /sp/ and /in/. *Segment*: They say /m/-/an/ when asked to say the first sound in the spoken word *man* and then the rest of the word.
d. blend two to three phonemes into recognizable words	*Blend two phonemes*: They say *zoo* when asked to blend together the orally presented phonemes /z/-/oo/. *Blend three phonemes*: They say *cat* when asked to blend together the orally presented phonemes /c/-/a/-/t/.

Standard	Examples
e. isolate and pronounce the initial, medial vowel, and final phonemes in three-phoneme (consonant-vowel-consonant) words	*Initial*: They say /f/ when asked the first phoneme in the orally presented word *food*. *Final*: They say /t/ when asked the final phoneme is the word *hot*. *Medial*: They say /ŏ/ when asked the medial phoneme in the orally presented word *dog*. [Note: Isolating the medial vowel is more difficult than isolating the initial or final phonemes and generally will be addressed after children successfully isolate initial and final phonemes.]
f. add or substitute individual sounds in simple, one-syllable words to make new words	*Add*: They say *sand* when asked to add the phoneme /s/ to the beginning of the spoken word *and*. They say *beet* when asked to add the phoneme /t/ to the end of the spoken word *be*. *Substitute*: They say *lit* when asked to change the /s/ in the word sit to /l/; They say *hop* when asked to change the /t/ at the end of the spoken word *hot* to /p/. [Note: Children will need to delete sounds before substituting them. Thus, children can say *me* when asked to say *meat* without the final /t/ sound.]

These skills are learned through direct instruction and ample opportunities to reflect on and manipulate language in playful contexts. Sometimes children respond with nonsense words while engaging in phonological awareness activities. For example, when asked to name something that rhymes with *plate*, they say *yate*. Such responses are not incorrect, phonologically speaking. *Plate* and *yate* do, indeed, rhyme. Clearly, the child who offers this response understands rhyme. Teachers should respond in the affirmative and then, as appropriate, address whether *yate* is a real word. (In some circles, it is a combination of *yeah* and *great*.)

Suggestions for instruction are presented in the Transitional Kindergarten section of this chapter. Many of the same activities are appropriate with kindergarteners; the pace, increased intentionality, and expectation of achievement of the standards mark the difference between instruction for transitional kindergarteners and kindergarteners.

Phonics and Word Recognition

The kindergarten curriculum fosters children's knowledge of and ability to apply grade-level phonics and word analysis skills in decoding words both in isolation and in text (RF.K.3a-d). Children achieve the standards displayed in Figure 4.25 by the end of the year. These standards build from knowledge of print concepts, especially knowledge of letters (recognizing and naming) (RF.K.1d). (See the Transitional Kindergarten section of this chapter for guidance on teaching letters.)

Figure 4.25. Kindergarten Phonics and Word Recognition Standards with Examples

Standard	Example
a. demonstrate basic knowledge of one-to-one letter-sound correspondences by producing the primary or many of the most frequent sound[s] for each consonant.	When children see the printed letter "s," in isolation (as on a flash card) and in text (as in an emergent level book they are viewing), they indicate that it represents the sound /s/. When they hear the sound /s/, they identify the letter that represents it.
b. associate the long and short sounds with common spellings (graphemes) for the five major vowels (that is, the letters a, e, i, o, and u).	*Vowels:* When children see the printed letter "a," they indicate that it may represent /ā/ or /ă/ (the long or short vowel sound).* When they see the grapheme "a_e," they indicate that it typically represents the long sound /ā/.
c. read common high-frequency words by sight (e.g., *the, of, to, you, he, my, is, are, do, does*).	When children see selected high-frequency words in print (both in isolation and in text), they say the words.
d. distinguish between similarly spelled words by identifying the sounds of the letters that differ.	Children know which of the following two printed words is *man* by examining the words and using their knowledge of the letter-sound correspondences: *man fan*

* Vowels may, of course, represent sounds other than the long and short sounds, but those are not the focus of this standard in kindergarten.

Because children learn to blend spoken phonemes into recognizable words (RF.K.2f), the teacher models using this skill in tandem with children's developing knowledge of letter-sound correspondences to sound and blend simple printed words, such as *mom* and *cat*. Words may be blended one sound at a time (e.g., /m/-/ŏ/-/m/ is *mom*, elongating sounds as appropriate; or /m/-/ŏ/ is /mŏ/, then /m/ is added to the end to form *mom*). Importantly, words that children first learn to decode should be ones in

their vocabulary. As they begin to grapple with blending the sounds represented by letters, they match their preliminary attempts with words that are in their mental storehouse. This is especially important when children, typically in later grades, encounter printed words that might be pronounced one of several different ways given the complexity of the code and the different stresses on syllables in multisyllabic words. See the Overview of the Span in this chapter for additional information.

Children have many opportunities to apply their growing knowledge of the code throughout the kindergarten year. They use what they have learned to engage with beginning-level texts and to record their own thoughts. It is important that they see many examples of print that match what they are learning. When print is not consistent with what they have learned up to that point, the discrepancy should be noted and mentioned in a manner appropriate for the learner. Decodable books, as discussed in the overview of the span in this chapter, are particularly appropriate for practicing emerging phonics skills as they are being learned. Some children will need more practice with decodable books than other children. Ongoing assessment is crucial to the extent that it informs instruction.

Fluency

Kindergarteners read emergent-level texts with purpose and understanding. They begin to demonstrate this as they express an interest in the printed material, ask and answer questions, and discuss the content (RF.K.4, RL/RI.K.1-3).

Young children need excellent models of fluent reading. They must be read aloud to regularly by adults and others who read aloud with accuracy, at a rate appropriate for the text, and with expression that supports understanding. Children also need many opportunities to participate in teacher read alouds or shared reading, chanting along with predictable books.

Kindergarteners also begin to build fluency as they handle books themselves. They reread familiar texts. In the first several months, their reading will primarily be a memorized chanting of highly predictable books. For example, children might enjoy handling *Brown Bear* by Bill Martin Jr. after hearing it read a few times. They hold the book, turn the pages appropriately, view the illustrations, and chant the text fluently—initially their eyes may not even focus on the print, but eventually, they should be

encouraged to follow the print. As they progress through the year, they increasingly engage with books that contain words they can access independently, including decodable words (words that make use of the letter-sound correspondences they have learned to date) and the high-frequency sight words they have learned. They read and reread these books for a variety of reasons: to rediscover the content, experience personal satisfaction with their accomplishment, share with others, or to perform for an audience. As they do so, their fluency increases and they build a greater sense of competence, which contributes to motivation.

Kindergarteners demonstrate fluency with letter recognition and with decodable and high-frequency sight words both in isolation and in connected text. Good teaching and many opportunities to practice are crucial.

EL kindergarten students can and should develop foundational reading skills at the same pace as their non-EL peers, provided that additional considerations for ELs particular learning needs are taken into account when planning instruction. Three main additional considerations should be at the forefront of foundational skills instructional planning for EL children: transfer, fluency, and meaning-making. Teachers should carefully assess which skills students already know in their home/primary language and which of those skills are transferable to English so that valuable instructional time is not wasted. For example, if EL students have already developed some phonological awareness in their native language, teachers should build on this awareness rather than re-teaching children what they already know. Instruction will need to be differentiated based on variations among ELs' native language phonology and writing systems. For example, children who already know letter sounds or names in a language that uses the Latin alphabet (such as Spanish) will be able to transfer this knowledge more easily than a student who is able to decode in a language with a non-Latin alphabet (such as Arabic, Korean, or Russian), a language with a symbol-based writing system (such as Chinese), or visual languages (such as American Sign Language). However, even when EL children bring knowledge of the alphabet from their home/primary language, they will still need targeted instruction in decoding English graphemes that are nonexistent in their native language. Teachers should also be aware that pronunciation differences should not automatically be considered as decoding problems. Sometimes,

pronunciation differences are due to accent. Teachers should listen to their students carefully as they are speaking and reading in order to determine where to provide feedback on pronunciation, and they should accept children's approximate pronunciations as they practice orally blending or reading words containing sounds that are new to them, purposefully focusing on the skill of fluent decoding. Deaf ELs who do not have auditory access to spoken language face challenges when asked to pronounce words because they cannot hear themselves or spoken language models in their environment. Rather than focus on the pronunciation of the words, teachers should check for the student's vocabulary comprehension.

Teachers should actively and frequently model fluent reading of narrative and informational texts. This is good practice for all students, but for EL children in particular, teachers may be the only source of this modeling in English. As they are reading aloud to students or reading a chant or poem with them, teachers can draw EL children's attention to the cadences and intonation of their voices or signs and encourage the children to imitate them so that the children are aware of the modeling. In addition, teachers can ask children to practice reading with expression while reading independently, pausing here and there and allowing their voices or signs to vary inflection where appropriate.

Great care should be taken to ensure that EL students understand the importance of making meaning when practicing decoding skills and building automaticity. Some EL children may not know the meaning of the words they are decoding. Teachers can do several things to help children understand that the goal of reading is to make meaning, and not only to decode words. First, teachers can anticipate which words or phrases children may not know in the texts and briefly explain what the words mean before students read. Teachers cannot teach all the words students will encounter as they practice decoding, but providing students with the meaning of some words will both aid comprehension and also signal to students that it is important to focus on meaning. Second, teachers can help build students' autonomy in monitoring their own comprehension while reading by continuously reminding them that, even when they are practicing fluent decoding, the text should make sense.

Children can learn to slow down and even stop every once in a while and think about what they just read.

For additional guidance on considerations for using the CA CCSS foundational reading skills with EL children, see Figure 4.26 and Appendix A of the CA ELD Standards. For guidance on teaching foundational literacy skills in Spanish, see the Spanish version of the CA CCSS for ELA/Literacy.

Figure 4.26. Foundational Literacy Skills for Kindergarten ELs

Student Language and Literacy Characteristics		Considerations for Foundational Literacy Skills Instruction	CA CCSS for ELA/Literacy Reading Standards: Foundational Skills
Oral Skills	No or little spoken English proficiency	Students will need instruction in recognizing and distinguishing the sounds of English as compared or contrasted with sounds in their native language (e.g., vowels, consonants, consonant blends, syllable structures).	**Phonological Awareness** 2. Demonstrate understanding of spoken words, syllables, and sounds (phonemes). • RF.K.2
	Spoken English proficiency	Students will need instruction in applying their knowledge of the English sound system to foundational literacy learning.	
Print Skills	No or little native language literacy	Students will need instruction in print concepts.	**Print Concepts** 1. Demonstrate understanding of the organization and basic features of print. • RF.K.1 **Phonics and Word Recognition** 3. Know and apply grade-level phonics and word analysis skills in decoding words. • RF.K.3
	Some foundational literacy proficiency in a language not using the Latin alphabet (e.g., Arabic, Chinese, Korean, Russian)	Students will be familiar with print concepts, and will need instruction in learning the Latin alphabet for English, as compared or contrasted with their native language writing system (e.g., direction of print, symbols representing whole words, syllables or phonemes).	

	Some foundational literacy proficiency in a language using the Latin alphabet (e.g., Spanish)	Students will need instruction in applying their knowledge of print concepts, phonics and word recognition to the English writing system, as compared or contrasted with their native language alphabet (e.g., letters that are the same or different, or represent the same or different sounds) and native language vocabulary (e.g., cognates) and sentence structure (e.g., subject-verb-object vs. subject-object-verb word order).	**Fluency** 4. Read emergent-reader texts with purpose and understanding. • RF.K.4

An Integrated and Interdisciplinary Approach

As discussed in the Overview of the Span section, the CA CCSS for ELA/Literacy and the CA ELD Standards call for an integration of reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Furthermore, these two sets of standards are inextricably linked to every area of the curriculum. Learning subject matter demands understanding and using its language to comprehend, clarify, and communicate concepts. The following snapshot illustrates how this integration of ELA with other content areas plays out in kindergarten classrooms.

Snapshot 4.7 Integrated ELA, Science, and Social Studies in Kindergarten

Kindergarteners in Miss Kravitz's kindergarten classroom listen to several text selections about caring for the environment and the impact of litter on local habitats. The teacher guides a discussion, asking and encouraging the children to ask questions about the information and drawing attention to domain-specific vocabulary. Next, the children work in small groups to draw illustrations about what they learned. They work together, talking about their understandings and making decisions about their illustrations. Children show and explain their completed works to the entire class, which are then displayed on a bulletin board. The children then identify three areas of the school grounds to explore for litter: the drive where students are dropped off and picked up, the outdoor lunch area, and the playground. Each day, teams count (and safely collect and discard) individual items during the final half hour of each of five days and record the count on a chart. At the end of the week, the children determine which area accumulated the most trash by adding the daily counts. Miss Kravitz leads a discussion about

their findings and guides children to think about the consequences and possible actions. Together they craft a letter to the principal, using some of the special terminology, and carefully revising and editing it as a group with teacher assistance. They invite the principal to the class to show their findings and present their letter.
CA CCSS for ELA/Literacy: RL.K.1; RF.K.2; W.K.2; SL.K.1; SL.K.6; L.K.6 **CA ELD Standards**: ELD.PI.K.1-2,5,9-11,12b **Next Generation Science Standards**: K-ESS3-3: Communicate solutions that will reduce the impact of humans on the land, water, air, and/or other living things in the local environment. **History-Social Science**: civic participation

English Language Development in Kindergarten

From their first days in kindergarten, teachers support their EL students to learn English, learn content knowledge through English, and learn about how English works. English language development occurs throughout the day across the disciplines and also during a time specifically designated for developing English based on EL student's language learning needs, although differences in approaches to ELD will vary depending on the program of instruction in which children are enrolled (e.g., mainstream English, two-way immersion). The CA ELD Standards serve a guide for teachers to meet the English language development needs of their EL students throughout the day during ELA and other content areas, and how to focus on these language learning needs strategically during a time specifically designated for this purpose. The CA ELD Standards should be used in tandem with the CA CCSS for ELA/Literacy, as well as other related content standards.

Designated ELD is a time during the regular school day where teachers work with EL children grouped by similar English proficiency levels and focus on critical language the students need to develop in order to be successful in school subjects, with a particular emphasis on developing academic language. Designated ELD time is an opportunity to focus on and delve deeper into the linguistic resources of English that EL children need to develop in order to engage with content, make meaning from it, and create oral and written texts in ways that meet the expectations of the CA CCSS for ELA/Literacy and other content standards. Accordingly, the CA ELD Standards are the

primary standards used during this designated time. However, the content focus is derived from other areas of the curriculum.

The main instructional emphases in designated ELD should be oral language development, including collaborative discussions, language awareness building, and a strong emphasis on general academic and domain-specific vocabulary, but other understandings about literary and informational texts enter into designated ELD instruction, as well. During designated ELD children should *discuss ideas and information* from ELA and other content areas using the language (e.g., vocabulary, grammatical structures) of those content areas and also *discuss the new language* they are learning to use. For example, a teacher might lead her students in a discussion about an inference the children made while listening to a story read aloud earlier in the day during ELA. She might structure the question in such a way as to promote the use of particular language (e.g., Why do you think Fox became so *sneaky* after he spoke with Goose?), and she might provide support for the children to use new vocabulary and grammatical structures by asking them to use an open sentence frame to express their ideas (e.g., Fox was *sneaky* because _____. *After he spoke with goose,* Fox became sneaky because _____.). During designated ELD, teachers can ensure that EL students have the time and opportunity to discuss their ideas using new language that they will need for fully engaging in ELA and other content areas. For an extended discussion of how the CA ELD Standards are used throughout the day in tandem with the CA CCSS for ELA/Literacy and other content standards and as the principle standards during designated ELD, see the transitional kindergarten through grade one overview of the span above and Chapters 2 and 3.

ELA/Literacy and ELD in Action

The research-based implications for ELA/Literacy and ELD instruction have been outlined previously in the transitional kindergarten through grade one overview of the span and in Chapter 2. In the following section, detailed examples illustrate how the principles and practices discussed in the preceding sections look in California classrooms. The examples provided are not intended to present the only approaches to teaching and learning. Rather, they are intended to provide concrete illustrations of how

teachers might enact the CCSS for ELA/Literacy and the CA ELD Standards in integrated ways that support deep learning for all students.

Both the CA CCSS for ELA/Literacy and the CA ELD Standards acknowledge the importance of oral language development and frequent exposure to rich texts in the earliest grades. Because young children's listening comprehension generally outpaces their ability to read independently, teacher read alouds are of critical importance. When teachers read aloud sophisticated literary and informational texts, they expose children to rich language (including vocabulary and complex grammatical structures), new ideas, and content knowledge the children may not be able to access on their own through independent reading. Rich read aloud experiences using complex texts in English are especially critical for EL children, who may not have these experiences at home. In bilingual programs, teacher read alouds in both languages of instruction are important for biliteracy development.

When reading aloud to children, teachers should remember the importance of creating a positive socio-emotional climate for young children. The read aloud should be an engaging and entertaining experience for both the teacher and children, particularly since one of the main social purposes for story genres is to entertain others. In order to ensure that read alouds are optimally beneficial for all children, teachers need to plan high quality lessons in advance, ensure that appropriate levels of scaffolding and accommodations are included, select texts carefully, observe their students during the read aloud and adjust their teaching accordingly, and collaborate with parents to read aloud at home in ways that support school learning.

When planning lessons, teachers should enact the principles and practices discussed in this chapter and throughout this framework. Lesson planning should incorporate the cultural, linguistic, and background experiences students bring to the classroom, the assessed needs of students, and look ahead to year-end and unit goals. The framing questions in Figure 4.27 provide a tool for planning teachers may find valuable.

Figure 4.27. Framing Questions for Lesson Planning

Framing Questions for All Students	Add for English Learners
• What are the big ideas and culminating performance tasks of the larger unit of study, and how does this lesson build toward them? • What are the learning targets for this lesson, and what should students be able to do at the end of the lesson? • Which clusters of CA CCSS for ELA/Literacy does this lesson address? • What background knowledge, skills, and experiences do my students have related to this lesson? • How complex are the texts and tasks I'll use? • How will students make meaning, express themselves effectively, develop language, learn content? How will they apply or learn foundational skills? • What types of supports (such as scaffolding), accommodations, or modifications,* will individual students need for effectively engaging in the lesson tasks? • How will my students and I monitor learning during and after the lesson, and how will that inform instruction?	• What are the English language proficiency levels of my students? • Which CA ELD Standards amplify the CA CCSS for ELA/Literacy at students' English language proficiency levels? • What language might be new for students and/or present challenges? • How will students interact in meaningful ways and learn about how English works in collaborative, interpretive, and/or productive modes?
*Scaffolding, accommodations, and modifications are discussed in Chapters 3 and 9.	

The quality of the texts used for read alouds matters. Informational texts should be rich in content and contain both domain-specific and general academic vocabulary, and they should be interesting and engaging for young children. Narrative texts should contain an abundance of general academic vocabulary, be engaging, and provide multiple opportunities for students to make inferences. These storybooks should tell great stories, promote reflection and conversation about ideas and events, lend themselves to rich retellings, and engage children so much that they make them want to experience the stories over and over again (Beck, McKeown, and Kucan 2001).

Questions posed during and after teacher read alouds should not only focus on literal comprehension (e.g., *Who are the characters? What's the setting?),* they should also promote deeper student thinking and extended discussions and provide

opportunities for children to retell, infer, and elaborate (e.g., *How does Lilly feel about her little brother after he is born? How do you know? Why do you think it's different after Julius is born?*). Teachers should observe how their students develop understandings about the concepts, comprehension strategies, and language addressed during read alouds. Through tasks such as joint reconstructions of stories and oral retellings (see Vignette 4.1 for transitional kindergarten), as well as student story writing, teachers can identify specific areas in the CA CCSS for ELA/Literacy and the CA ELD Standards that need further attention.

ELA and ELD Vignettes

The following two vignettes illustrate how a teacher might implement the CA CCSS for ELA/Literacy and the CA ELD Standards using the framing questions and additional considerations for teacher read alouds provided above. The first vignette presents a glimpse into an instructional unit and a closer look at parts of an ELA lesson where the CCSS for ELA/Literacy and the CA ELD Standards are used in tandem. In the vignette, the teacher uses a five-day planning template to guide him in building his students' abilities to make meaning, express themselves effectively, develop language, second vignette presents a designated ELD lesson that builds into and from the ELA lesson in order to support EL children in their steady development of social and academic English.

ELA Vignette

Vignette 4.3 ELA Instruction in Kindergarten: Read Alouds with Storybooks
Background: Mr. Nguyen reads aloud to his students daily during ELA instruction. He intentionally selects storybooks that have an engaging and fun plot because they promote extended discussions. The books he selects are also filled with general academic vocabulary and other rich language, which ensures that his thirty Kindergarteners, half of them ELs, are immersed in rich language. Most of the EL children are at the Expanding level of English language proficiency, and three are new to the U.S. and are at the early Emerging level of English language proficiency. Three of his students have moderate intellectual disabilities. When he reads aloud complex literary texts, Mr. Nguyen incorporates specific instructional strategies so that his students develop enthusiasm about the stories, listening comprehension skills, and sophisticated language. He also looks up specific words and phrases in the EL children's primary languages so that he can use them to strategically scaffold their comprehension of the English texts. **Lesson Context:** Mr. Nguyen and his teaching colleagues collaboratively plan their read aloud lessons, as well as the designated ELD lessons that build into and from the read alouds. They've just planned a five-day series of lessons for the story *Wolf* by Becky Bloom. The teachers will read the story to their students three times over three consecutive days. Each time they read the story aloud, they'll model good reading behaviors, draw attention to vocabulary, and prompt

students to discuss comprehension questions (at first mostly literal and increasingly inferential). In the last two days, the teachers will guide their students to retell the story, first orally and then in writing. The team's planning map for the week is provided below.

Interactive Reading 5-day Planning Template		
Book title and author:		
The problem (in child-friendly language):		
General academic vocabulary in the story:		
Selected words to teach more in depth later (~5):		
Day 1	**Day 2**	**Day 3**
Places in the story to model making inferences: Vocabulary to explain (E), act out (A) or show in the illustration (S): Places to stop for think-pair-share (write questions and sentence frames, differentiated as needed):	Places in the story to model making inferences: Vocabulary to explain (E), act out (A) or show in the illustration (S): Places to stop for think-pair-share (write questions and sentence frames, differentiated as needed):	Places in the story to model making inferences: Vocabulary to explain (E), act out (A) or show in the illustration (S): Places to stop for think-pair-share (write questions and sentence frames, differentiated as needed):
Days 4-5 Guided (with the teacher) or independent (in pairs or groups): • Oral retelling of the original story • Written retelling of the original story • Alternate version of the original story		

At the end of the week, Mr. Nguyen will ask the students to work in pairs and choose to compose and illustrate a retelling of the original story or an alternate version of the story (e.g., with different characters, alternate ending). The learning target and cluster of CA CCSS for ELA/Literacy and CA ELD Standards Mr. Nguyen is focusing on today are the following:

Learning Target: The students will discuss text-dependent questions about a story they listen to. They'll practice being good conversation partners.
Primary CA CCSS for ELA/Literacy Addressed: *RL.K.1 - With prompting and support, ask and answer questions about key details in a text; RL.K.7 - With prompting and support, describe the relationship between illustrations and the story in which they appear (e.g., what moment in a story an illustration depicts); SL.K.1 - Participate in collaborative conversations with diverse partners, follow agreed-upon rules, and continue a conversation through multiple exchanges; SL.K.2 - Confirm understanding of a text read aloud.* ***Primary CA ELD Standards Addressed (Expanding level shown):*** *ELD.PI.K.1 – Contribute to class, group, and partner discussions by listening attentively, following turn-taking rules, and asking and answering questions; ELD.PI.K.3 - Offer opinions in conversations using an expanded set of learned phrases (e.g., I think/don't think X. I agree with X.), as well as open responses, in order to gain and/or hold the floor. ELD.PI.K.5 - Demonstrate active listening to read-alouds and oral presentations by asking and answering questions with oral sentence frames and occasional prompting and support.*

Lesson Excerpt: On the first day, Mr. Nguyen invites his students to the carpet to listen to the story. He briefly *previews what the problem of the story is* since this is often challenging for students to perceive on their own.

> Mr. Nguyen: Today, you're going to meet a hungry wolf. At first, he wants to eat some farm animals – a cow, a pig, and a duck. But the farm animals are much more interested in reading their books, so they *ignore* him. That means they don't pay attention to him *at all*. He doesn't like that, and he tries to get them to pay attention to him.

His students are all very engaged as Mr. Nguyen reads, in large part because the story is so well written, but also because Mr. Nguyen *models enthusiasm and intonation*, and he acts out the voices of the interesting characters when there's dialogue. He frequently invites the students to read along with him particularly engaging passages, for example when the pig explains to the Wolf that the farm is for educated animals.

> Mr. Nguyen: "'Educated animals … Educated animals!' the Wolf repeated to himself.' Let's all repeat that together, and let's say it like the Wolf would.

Mr. Nguyen also models how to make inferences at strategic points in the story by thinking aloud.

> Mr. Nguyen: I'm thinking the reason the animals aren't paying attention to the wolf is because they're so *engrossed*, or interested in their books. Even though he's leaping and howling at them, they're more interested in reading. I think they must love to read and that they're probably reading really good books!

At one or two strategic points throughout the story, he *stops and asks his students to think* about a text-dependent question he poses and then prompts the students to share their ideas with a partner. His students engage in "think-pair-share" frequently, and they quickly turn to their designated partner to discuss their ideas.

> Mr. Nguyen: "You've got a long way to go." That means, "you have a lot of work to do." Why do you think the duck told the Wolf, "You've got a long way to go?"

Mr. Nguyen points to the illustration in the book, which shows the wolf laboriously reading his book out loud, the pig annoyed and glaring at him, and the other animals ignoring him. He's found that adding this level of visual support helps his students with learning disabilities and his ELs at the early Emerging level to comprehend better and be more actively engaged in the partner discussion. It also helps all of the children describe the relationship between illustrations and text in stories. After Mr. Nguyen poses the question, he is quiet for several seconds so his students can think.

> Mr. Ngyuen: Now that you have an idea, you can use this sentence frame when you share it with your partner. Listen to me first, and then we'll say it together: "Maybe the animals think that ____." Remember to help your partner, add on to what your partner says, or to ask a question, if you need to. Don't stop your conversation until I call you back.

The children take turns sharing their ideas with their partners, and Mr. Nguyen listens to his students as they share. He has intentionally placed his ELs at the early Emerging levels next to friends who speak the same primary language, and he encourages them to communicate in their primary language when they need to. Also when needed, he prompts them to use gestures (e.g., nodding) and simple phrases (e.g., I think ... Can you say that again?) in order to actively participate in the conversations.

> Alicia: Maybe the animals think that, think that … the wolf …
> Sam: (Nodding in encouragement and waiting.)
> Alicia: Maybe the wolf is …
> Sam: Maybe the animals think that …
> Alicia: (Nodding) Maybe the animals think that they don't like him. Your turn.
> Sam: I can add on to you because maybe the animals think that he don't read good.
> Alicia: Yeah. They read good. They only like to read.
> Sam: And the wolf, he don't read good like them.
> Mr. Nguyen: (Signaling for students to face him.) I heard some great ideas. I heard someone say that maybe the animals think that the Wolf doesn't read very well, and that's why they told him he has a long way to go. Here (pointing to the text) it says that

> the animals just kept on reading. It seems like they weren't even interested in hearing him read. It looks like that's what's happening in the illustration, too. Maybe that's what the pig means when he says "you've got a long way to go." Maybe they think he needs to practice reading a lot more, or that he has a long way to go before he can read as well as they do.

Throughout the story, Mr. Nguyen pauses when he comes to general academic vocabulary that his students may not know or only partially understand. He acts out some of the words (e.g., *peered, budge*), points to illustrations in the text for others (*emerging*), and briefly explains others (*educated, ignored, satisfied, impressed*).

> Mr. Nguyen: "You have *improved*," remarked the pig. When you improve, that means you get better at doing something.

At the end of the story, Mr. Nguyen asks a final question to stretch his students' analytical thinking.

> Mr. Nguyen: Why do you think the other animals want Wolf to keep reading to him now?

Over the next two days, when he reads the story aloud again, Mr. Nguyen continues to model good reading behaviors, focus on vocabulary and other rich language (e.g., his eyes were playing tricks on him), and provide lots of opportunities for the children to discuss their comprehension of the text. By the third read, the children are able to discuss more analytical questions in extended ways. For example, by the third read, the children have a more nuanced understanding of why the animals ignored the Wolf and can explain their ideas more precisely (e.g., *because he was acting in an "uneducated" way and couldn't read like them*). They are also able to answer the questions "What do you think the Wolf learned by the end of the story? How do you know?" with a greater amount of evidence from the text, including how the Wolf's behavior and appearance changed throughout the story.

Throughout the week, Mr. Nguyen keeps notes on the things his students are saying and doing. The log has sections for groups of students (e.g., students having difficulty with listening comprehension, students with special needs, EL children) so that he can support them strategically. On the fourth day, Mr. Nguyen guides the children in an oral retelling of the story. On the fifth day, he engages the children in a "joint reconstruction of text," where he guides them to retell the story as he writes it on a document reader, scaffolding their use of sophisticated language and supporting them to extend their ideas.

Teacher Reflection: At the end of the week, Mr. Nguyen reviews the notes in his observation log. He notices that during the think-pair-share discussions on the first read, his ELs at the early Emerging level of English language proficiency struggled to communicate in English, and two used their primary language to share ideas for a couple of the questions. However, by the third read, all three spoke more confidently, using short phrases in English and the sentence frames he provided. He makes a note to ask his teaching colleagues for ideas about supporting these students to participate more actively in English on the first read. At the same time, he's pleased that they listened actively during the first read and that after hearing the story repeatedly, they were able to communicate their ideas in English. Returning to his notes, Mr. Nguyen is also pleased to see that the three children with moderate intellectual disabilities were engaged during all three read alouds, and he attributes this to the scaffolding and structure he provided.

Mr. Nguyen sends home an information sheet – provided in English and in the primary language of the EL children - with ideas for parents to interact with their children when reading aloud to them at home.

Lesson adapted from Beck and McKeown (2007), McGee and Schickedanz (2007), Ota and Spycher (2011)

Resources
Websites:

- Doing What Works has many ideas for teaching reading comprehension strategies (dww.ed.gov).
- Colorín Colorado has read aloud tips for parents in eleven languages (http://www.colorincolorado.org).
- D.E.A.R. (drop everything and read) with families short video on teachingchannel.org.

Recommended reading:
McGee, L. M. and Schickedanz, J. A. (2007). Repeated Interactive Read Alouds in Preschool and Kindergarten. *The Reading Teacher,* 60 (8), 742–751.

Designated ELD Vignette

The example in the ELA vignette above illustrates good teaching for all students with a particular focus on the needs of EL children and children with disabilities. In addition to good first teaching, EL children benefit from intentional and purposeful designated ELD instruction, which the following vignette illustrates.

Vignette 4.4: Designated ELD Instruction in Kindergarten:
General Academic Vocabulary Instruction from Storybooks

Background: Mr. Nguyen has just read his students the story "Wolf" by Becky Bloom (see Vignette 4.3 above). During the read aloud, he paused when he came to several general academic vocabulary words to point to illustrations showing the meanings or act out or explain their meanings. Despite this embedded vocabulary instruction, Mr. Nguyen has observed that many of his ELs have a hard time understanding or using the words orally. He wants all of his students to be able to understand these types of words when he reads them stories and use the words when they retell stories or compose their own original stories. He explicitly teaches some general academic vocabulary during ELA instruction. However, he also uses part of his designated ELD time to teach additional general academic words explicitly so that his EL students can rapidly build their vocabulary repertoires in ways that are tailored to their specific language learning needs.
Lesson Context: Mr. Nguyen and his kindergarten teaching team plan their vocabulary lessons together. They use a structured routine for teaching vocabulary that the children know well and enjoy because it makes learning the new words fun. The lesson incorporates several key elements: contextualizing the word in the story, providing a child-friendly explanation of its meaning along several examples of the word used meaningfully, and ample opportunities for the children to practice using the word with appropriate levels of scaffolding. The teachers teach 4-5 words per week using this routine during ELA instruction, and they develop the children's knowledge of the words over time by using the words frequently and providing opportunities for the children to use the words in meaningful ways. The lesson-planning template the team uses is provided below.

General Academic Vocabulary Instruction - Lesson Plan Template
(Whole group and small group)

Story:
Word:
Cognates:
Timing: (should take 5-10 min., depending on the word)

Routine:

1. Tell the students the word, and briefly show them the place in the story where they first heard it. Tell students any cognates in the students' primary language (e.g., *furious* in English is *furioso* in Spanish).
2. Explain what the word means in child-friendly terms (1-2 sentences). Use of the word in complete sentences so you don't sound like a dictionary.
3. Explain what the word means in the context of the story.
4. Provide a few examples of how the word can be used in other grade-appropriate ways.
5. Guide students to use the word meaningfully in one or two think-pair-shares (three, if needed), with appropriate scaffolding (using a picture for a prompt, open sentence frames, etc.).
6. Ask short-answer questions to check for understanding (not a test – they're still learning the word).
7. Find ways to use the word a lot from now on, and encourage the children to use the word as much as they can. Tell them to teach the word to their parents when they go home.

If taught in small groups for ELD

Children in group (names):
EL proficiency level: Emerging, Expanding, Bridging
Differentiated sentence frames for step 5 (see CA ELD Standards):

Emerging	Expanding	Bridging

Mr. Nguyen teaches designated ELD during literacy centers. While the other children are engaged in independent tasks (e.g., at the dramatic play area, the library corner, the listening station, the writing station), he works with small groups of EL children at the same English language proficiency level so that he can focus on their particular language learning needs. The learning target and cluster of CA ELD Standards Mr. Nguyen is focusing on today are the following:

Learning Target: The students will use general academic vocabulary meaningfully in complex sentences.

Primary CA ELD Standards Addressed (Expanding level): *ELD.PI.K.12b - Use a growing number of general academic and domain-specific words in order to add detail or to create shades of meaning … ; ELD.PII.K.6 - Combine clauses in an increasing variety of ways to make connections between and join ideas, for example, to express cause/effect (e.g., She jumped because the dog barked) ...*

Lesson Excerpt:

Mr. Nguyen sits at the teaching table facing five of his EL students who are at the Expanding level of English language proficiency. He shows them the book they read that morning, "Wolf," and briefly summarizes the plot of the story. Next, he tells them about the new word they're going to learn: *ignore*.

> Mr. Nguyen: (Showing the illustration.) Today, you're going to learn a new word: ignore. Let's all say that together. In the story when the Wolf tried to scare the other animals, they just ignored him. When you ignore someone or something, you don't pay attention to it at all. You pretend it's not there. In the story, the animals ignored the Wolf – or pretended he wasn't there – because they wanted to read their books.

Mr. Nguyen tells the children some other ways the word can be used so that they have models for using the word in different situations.

> Mr. Nguyen: You can use this word a lot and probably every day. For example, this morning, I noticed that Hector ignored a friend who was trying to play with him while I was reading you this story. Hector didn't pay attention to him at all because he wanted to listen to the story. Sometimes when I'm trying to take a nap, there's noise outside my house, but I just have to ignore it so I can go to sleep. Take a look at this picture. Sometimes, my dog ignores me when I call her. She just pretends I'm not there, and I have to tell her "Please don't ignore me."

By this point, the children have a good idea of what the word means, and now it's their turn to use it. Mr. Nguyen provides a structure the students are familiar with (think-pair-share), linguistic support (open sentence frames), and a good question to promote thinking and their meaningful use of the word.

> Mr. Nguyen: Now it's time for you to use the word. Here's a picture of a baby bothering a dog (shows picture). It looks like the dog is ignoring the baby. Why do you think the dog is ignoring the baby? (Waits several seconds for students to do their own thinking.) I'm not sure what you were thinking, but I'm thinking that maybe he's ignoring the baby because he's a lot bigger than the baby, and he doesn't want to hurt her. Maybe he's ignoring the baby because he doesn't care if she pulls his ears. You can use your idea, or you can use my idea. Now you get to tell your partner the idea. Use this sentence frame: The dog is ignoring the baby because ___.

After the children say the sentence frame with Mr. Nguyen, they turn to their partner to share their idea. Mr. Nguyen makes sure that his sentence frames contain the new word and that they're "open," meaning that children can use the frame as a springboard to add a lot, and not just one or two words. He also makes sure to think about the grammatical structure of his sentence frames and to constantly stretch his students linguistically. The sentence frame he uses is a complex sentence, and he'd like for his students to use complex sentences to show the relationship between two ideas more often, rather than only using simple sentences to express themselves. He listens as the children share their ideas.

> Marco: The dog is ignoring the baby because he's a lot bigger. Maybe he doesn't want to hurt it.
> Alexi: The dog is ignoring the baby because he likes it.
> Mr. Nguyen: Can you say a little more? What does he like?
> Alexi: When she goes on him and pulls him. He loves the baby.
> Mr. Nguyen: So he's ignoring the baby because he loves her, and he doesn't care if she pulls on his ears?
> Alexi: (Nodding.) He ignoring her because he loves her, and he doesn't care if she hurt him.

Mr. Nguyen does not correct Alexi and require him to say "he's ignoring her" or "she hurts him" because he wants to keep Alexi's focus on the meaningful use of the word *ignore*. However, he makes a note in his observation log to address this grammatical point in another lesson. He asks the children another question and has them share their ideas with a partner, and then he asks them some short-answer questions to reinforce their understanding.

> Mr. Nguyen: Now we're going to play a little game. If what I say is a good example of something you should ignore, say "ignore." If it's not, say "don't ignore." Your friend wants to play with you during circle time.
> Children: (In unison.) Ignore.
> Mr. Nguyen: Your friend falls off the swing and hurts herself.
> Children: (In unison.) Don't ignore.

The vocabulary lesson has taken about eight minutes, and now the children have a solid foundation for using the word. Mr. Nguyen will continue to develop the children's knowledge of the word over time. The children will also learn many other words, some taught directly to the whole class, and many more they are exposed to through the rich stories and informational texts Mr. Nguyen reads aloud daily. Mr. Nguyen will often choose different words to teach his ELs at the Emerging level of proficiency, words that are important to understanding the stories he reads and that the other students in the class may already know well (e.g., dangerous, practice), as well as some everyday words the children may not pick on their own (e.g., town, village, farm).

Teacher Reflection and Next Steps:

Over the next week, Mr. Nguyen watches and listens to the children to see if they begin to use the word he taught them. He deliberately finds ways to use the word several times each day for the next week, and he posts the word, along with the picture of the dog and the baby, on the class "Big Kids Words" wall. Each week, he sends home a sheet with the new words and supportive illustration so that his students can "teach" their parents the new words they're learning and so that parents can reinforce the learning.

Lesson adapted from Beck and McKeown (2001); Silverman (2007); Spycher (2009)

Resources

Website:

- Colorín Colorado has information about selecting vocabulary words to teach to ELs.

Recommended reading:

Beck, I., McKeown, M. and Kucan, L. (2002). Taking Delight in Words: Using Oral Language To Build Young Children's Vocabularies. Colorín Colorado.

Conclusion

The information and ideas in this grade-level section are provided to guide teachers in their instructional planning. Recognizing California's richly diverse student population is critical for instructional and program planning and delivery. Teachers are responsible for educating a variety of learners, including **advanced learners**, **students with disabilities**, **ELs at different English language proficiency levels**, **Standard English learners**, and other **culturally and linguistically diverse learners**, as well as **students experiencing difficulties** with one or another of the themes presented in this chapter (meaning making, effective expression, language development, content knowledge, and foundational skills).

It is beyond the scope of a curriculum framework to provide guidance on meeting the learning needs of every child because each child comes to teachers with unique needs, histories, and circumstances. Teachers must know their students well through appropriate assessment practices and other methods, including communication with families, in order to design effective instruction for them. They need to adapt and refine instruction as appropriate for individual learners and capitalize on opportunities for collaboration with colleagues and others (see Figure 4.28).

Kindergarten children have just embarked on the voyage of their lifetime. The world of words, stories, and ideas is a new adventure for them, and they bring fresh eyes to every schooling event. May those eyes find excitement in new concepts, comfort in familiar tales, and new-found pride in the skills and knowledge so recently acquired.

Figure 4.28. Collaboration

Collaboration: A Necessity

Frequent and meaningful collaboration with colleagues and parents/families is critical for ensuring that all students meet the expectations of the CA CCSS for ELA/Literacy and the CA ELD Standards. Teachers are at their best when they frequently collaborate with their teaching colleagues to plan instruction, analyze students' work, discuss students' progress, integrate new learning into their practice, and refine lessons or identify interventions when students experience difficulties. Students are at their best when teachers enlist the collaboration of parents and families as partners in their children's education. Schools are at their best when educators are supported by administrators and other support staff to implement the type of instruction called for in this framework. School districts are at their best when teachers across the district have an expanded professional learning community they can rely upon as thoughtful partners and for tangible instructional resources. More information about these types of collaboration can be found in Chapter 11 and throughout this framework.

Grade One

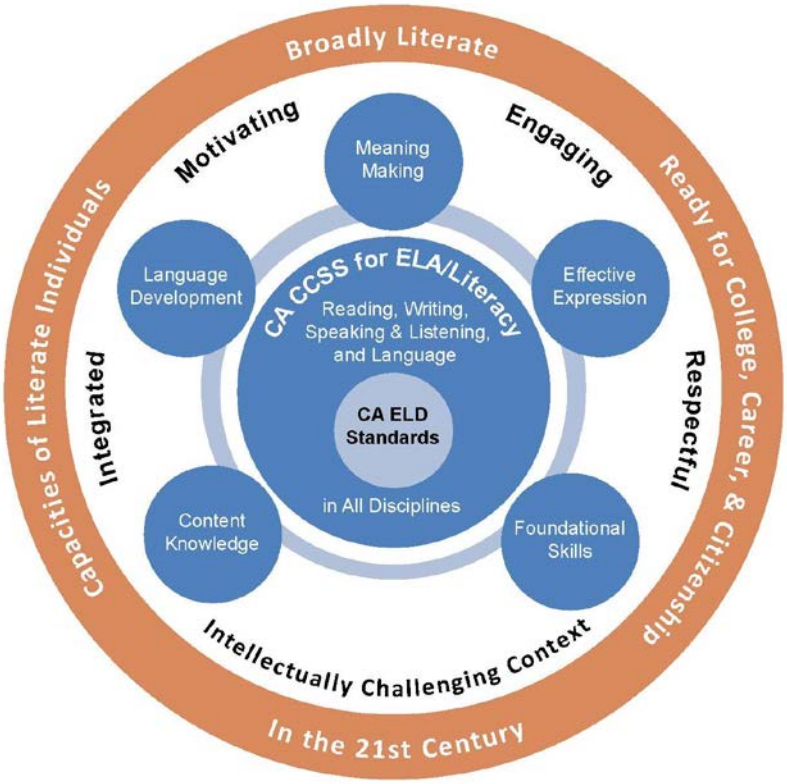
First grade is an exciting year filled with remarkable advances in literacy and language. Children continue to learn skills that enable them to read, write, and communicate more independently. They apply their growing knowledge of the alphabetic code and they recognize increasingly complex words accurately and automatically. They learn to write and spell many words and use them to communicate ideas and experiences. They engage deeply with high-quality literary and informational texts as listeners and readers, and they compose different types of texts for different purposes. They make progress toward becoming broadly literate. (See Chapter 3.) Concurrently, children have rich experiences in the content areas that expand their vocabulary and knowledge of the world.

Instruction is designed such that the range of learners in the classroom receive excellent "first teaching." Some children may require additional targeted instruction in order to achieve the standards. Additional instruction is provided quickly and appropriately to ensure all children make the progress necessary for access to the same future opportunities in their educations, careers, and lives as their peers.

Key Themes of ELA/Literacy and ELD Instruction

Instruction in ELA/literacy should be appropriately challenging, focused on clear objectives, carefully sequenced, and responsive to children's needs. Furthermore, instruction should occur in an inviting and empowering context that sparks children's interests, stimulates meaningful purposes to engage with written language, encourages collaboration and communication among children, and values and acknowledges children's accomplishments and curiosities. In this section, the key themes of ELA/literacy and ELD instruction as they apply to grade one are discussed. These include **meaning making**, **language development**, **effective expression**, **content knowledge**, and **foundational skills**. See Figure 4.29.

Figure 4.29. Goals, Themes, and Contexts for Implementation of the CA CCSS for ELA/Literacy and the CA ELD Standards



Meaning Making

As noted in Chapter 2 and previously in this chapter, meaning making is a clear thread that runs throughout each of the strands of the CA CCSS for ELA/Literacy and the CA ELD Standards. The standards ensure that children understand texts, write to communicate meaning, speak and listen to convey and clarify meaning, and learn and develop their language to expand opportunities for meaning making. This section focuses on meaning making with text.

Meaning Making with Text

Comprehension is used synonymously with *meaning making* in the context of engagement with text. Comprehension is the focus of read aloud experiences with literary and informational text. Children ask and answer questions (RL/RI.1.1), with special, but not exclusive, emphasis on text dependent questions, particularly those that demand higher-level thinking.(See the Overview of the Span of this chapter for a discussion of text dependent questions.) They retell stories or information, identify the central message or main topic, and describe story elements (characters, settings, major events) and information (RL/RI.1.2-3). They learn about the craft and structure of literary and informational text, shifting their attention from meaning to how the meaning was conveyed as they identify words that evoke feelings or to clarify the meaning of words and phrases in the text, explain differences between different genres and the purposes of various text features (glossaries, icons, headings), and identify the source of the story (the voice) or information (images or text) (RL/RI.1.4-6). They also attend to illustrations and details to describe characters, settings, and events, or key ideas, and they compare and contrast the adventures and experiences of characters and of two texts on the same topic (RL/RI.1.7,9). Teachers provide systematic instruction in comprehension to ensure that children understand, enjoy, and learn from texts that are being read aloud.

Comprehension is also vitally important as children gain independence with print. In grade one, especially, children use considerable mental energy when first learning to decode. Excellent instruction ensures that they build automaticity and fluency quickly so that decoding efforts are not so demanding that they disallow comprehension. Teachers continue, as they work with small groups and individuals, to provide instruction in comprehension and turn children’s attention to meaning even as children build skill with the code.

Questions are skillfully used by teachers for several purposes. Some questions are used to assess children’s understanding; others are used to guide understanding, inference-making, and thinking. Some questions prompt children to make connections between the text and their lives or other learning. Some help children integrate information across paragraphs or pages. Some focus children’s attention on word choice and how it impacts interpretation. Children are given opportunities to reflect on

and respond to the content of texts in a variety of ways, including critically and creatively, and to engage in many conversations with peers and others about meaning.

EL first graders benefit from and participate in all of the instruction outlined above. Particularly critical for EL children are opportunities for equitable interaction and a focus on meaning making. Questioning and scaffolding are strategically provided.

Language Development

As noted in previous sections, language undergirds literacy and learning, and children's command of academic language in particular is related to present and future achievement. Serious attention is given to developing children's language, yet instruction is age-appropriate and meaning-based. In other words, new vocabulary (see next section) and complex sentence structures are relevant for six-year-olds and serve real purposes: to understand and appreciate increasingly complex texts, to learn new concepts and information in the content areas, and to communicate effectively and precisely.

A great deal of conversation about texts and content area subject matter occurs in grade one. Children meet with different partners to react to a character's actions in a story, summarize a brief selection from a text, tell what they learned after a content investigation, and identify questions they want to ask. They are given "think time" to plan what they are going to say and they are encouraged to "say more" about topics and to explain their comments and ideas. They write in response to texts and content lessons, independently, with a partner, or through dictation to the teacher. They have repeated opportunities to use new language.

They also have many of the same opportunities that kindergarteners have to immerse themselves in a variety of language-based activities throughout the day. They use puppets to create or reenact stories. They engage in sociodramatic activities and role playing. They participate in collaborative explorations of content and creative problem solving. See other sections on language in this chapter.

Vocabulary Instruction

Vocabulary and all language is learned largely through exposure to text. In fact, wide reading has been identified as the single most powerful factor in vocabulary growth (Cunningham and Stanovich 2003, Stahl and Nagy 2006). Because most children in grade one are not yet able to independently read text that is sufficiently sophisticated to expand language, it is critical that teachers continue to read aloud to children from a range of literary and informational text. Reading aloud occurs daily with the entire class and small groups. It occurs in every content area.

As they read aloud (and sometimes before they read aloud), teachers provide "child-friendly" definitions of selected unknown words. The definitions are stated in terms children understand and are often accompanied by several examples of usage. For example, before reading *Balloons Over Broadway:The True Story of the Puppeteer of Macy's Parade* by Melissa Sweet (2011), teachers may introduce the word "marionette," the meaning of which is important in the story. They pronounce the word carefully, perhaps writing it on a chart and drawing a quick sketch, and tell what it means and how it would be used in a sentence.

Teachers also provide instruction on how to make sense of unknown words while reading. They teach children that both context (including images) and examination of word parts may support them in gaining meaning. For example, in *Pop! The Invention of Bubble Gum* by Meghan McCarthy (2010), the primary character is described as "a young accountant." Teachers direct children to the sentence that follows use of the term and ask what it suggests about the meaning of the word: "His job was to add numbers and balance budgets." In *Harvesting Hope: The Story of Cesar Chavez,* author Kathleen Krull (2003) writes that Chavez experienced "homesickness" when he and his family left their home state of Arizona in search of work. Teachers instruct children to use their knowledge of the parts of the word to consider its meaning. Teachers ask questions that prompt children's use of new vocabulary ("Tell your partner how Chavez felt and why he felt that way. How do we know?"). Strategies for gaining word meanings are explicitly taught (L 4).

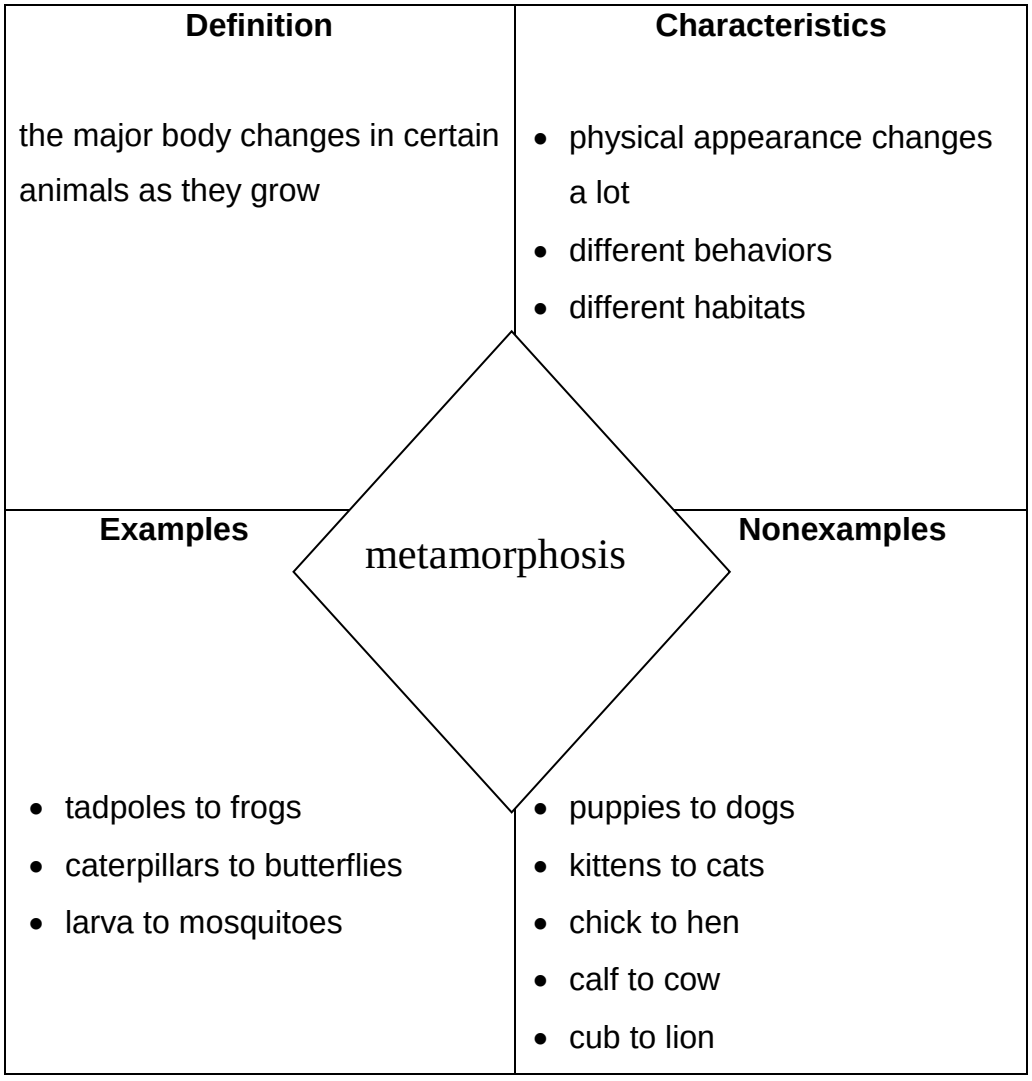
Teachers also ensure that they create word-conscious environments to pique children' interest in words. They talk about word origins and draw attention to interesting words.

EL children who are not yet reading independently rely on oral language experiences for their vocabulary development. A comprehensive approach to vocabulary instruction, through rich oral language experiences, is critical for EL children's vocabulary development (see August, Carlo, Dressler, and Snow 2005; Baumann and Kameenui 2004; Graves 2000, 2006, 2009; Stahl and Nagy 2006). The components of this approach include wide exposure to vocabulary/wide reading (both reading volume and reading a variety of texts), intentional and explicit instruction of academic vocabulary, development of word consciousness (e.g., the ability to reflect on and manipulate language), and instruction in independent word learning strategies (the ability to use knowledge of phonics and morphology, as well as context clues, to derive the meaning of new words).

One of these components, intentional and explicit instruction of words, when combined with teacher read alouds of sophisticated texts, has been shown to expand EL students' vocabularies and improve their reading comprehension. This approach includes selecting words carefully for instruction from high-quality text, providing students with rich explanations about the words, providing opportunities for students to play with the words, and having students develop deep knowledge of the words over time (Collins 2005; Robbins and Ehri 1994; Sénéchal, Thomas, and Monker 1995; Silverman 2007; Spycher 2009).

Snapshot 4.8 Teaching Vocabulary
Mr. Rodriguez selected several domain-specific words from the students' ongoing study of life cycles for deeper exploration after initial teaching that included child-friendly definitions at point-of-contact in the unit as well as multiple exposures. One word he selected was *metamorphosis* because it represents a crucial concept in the content. He asked students to think about where they had heard the word during their study, and with his assistance, they recalled that it was used in the book about caterpillars changing into moths and in the time-lapse video clip showing tadpoles becoming frogs. He drew on large chart paper a graphic known as a Frayer Model. He wrote the target word in the center and labeled the four quadrants. He reminded the students of the definition--it was one they had discussed many times--and asked them

to share with a neighbor something they know about the concept after the recent few weeks of investigation. Then, he recorded the definition in one quadrant of the chart. He then asked students to reflect on their learning and offer some examples of animals that undergo metamorphosis. Importantly, he also asked for examples of animals that do not undergo metamorphosis, thus better supporting concept development. He recorded their contributions in the appropriate places on the chart. Finally, he supported children in identifying some characteristics of metamorphosis. What does it entail? What are some important aspects of metamorphosis?



Mr. Rodriguez next selected several additional words from the unit, ensuring that his selections were words that were relevant to the science unit, been explicitly taught, and used numerous times. Words included *cycle*, *mature*, and *develop*. The children work in teams to carefully create a Frayer Model for the term of their choice. The teacher demanded accuracy and legibility so that the chart would be useful to

other students. They were welcome to include graphics and illustrations. Mr. Rodriguez circulated as the children worked and provided support as needed. Later, each team presented its chart to the larger group. They stood in the front of the room, read the text aloud, and responded to questions and comments from their peers. The charts were displayed on the bulletin board for the duration of the unit of study.
CA CCSS for ELA/Literacy: L.1.1-2, 5; SL.1.1, 2, 4 **CA ELD Standards**: PI.A.1-4, PI.B.5, PI.C.9 **Next Generation Science Standards:** LS1.A: Growth and Development of Organisms

Effective Expression

In grade one, children make progress toward expressing themselves effectively as they write, discuss, and present their ideas and knowledge to others. They continue to expand their command of written and spoken language conventions.

Writing

Children progress considerably in their writing, both in terms of substance (including organization and style) and mechanics during grade one. They have daily opportunities to write with their teacher, their peers, and on their own for a variety of purposes and in a variety of contexts. They write in learning and literature response journals. They write messages to others. They write directions for visitors. They write lists of ways to improve the playground.

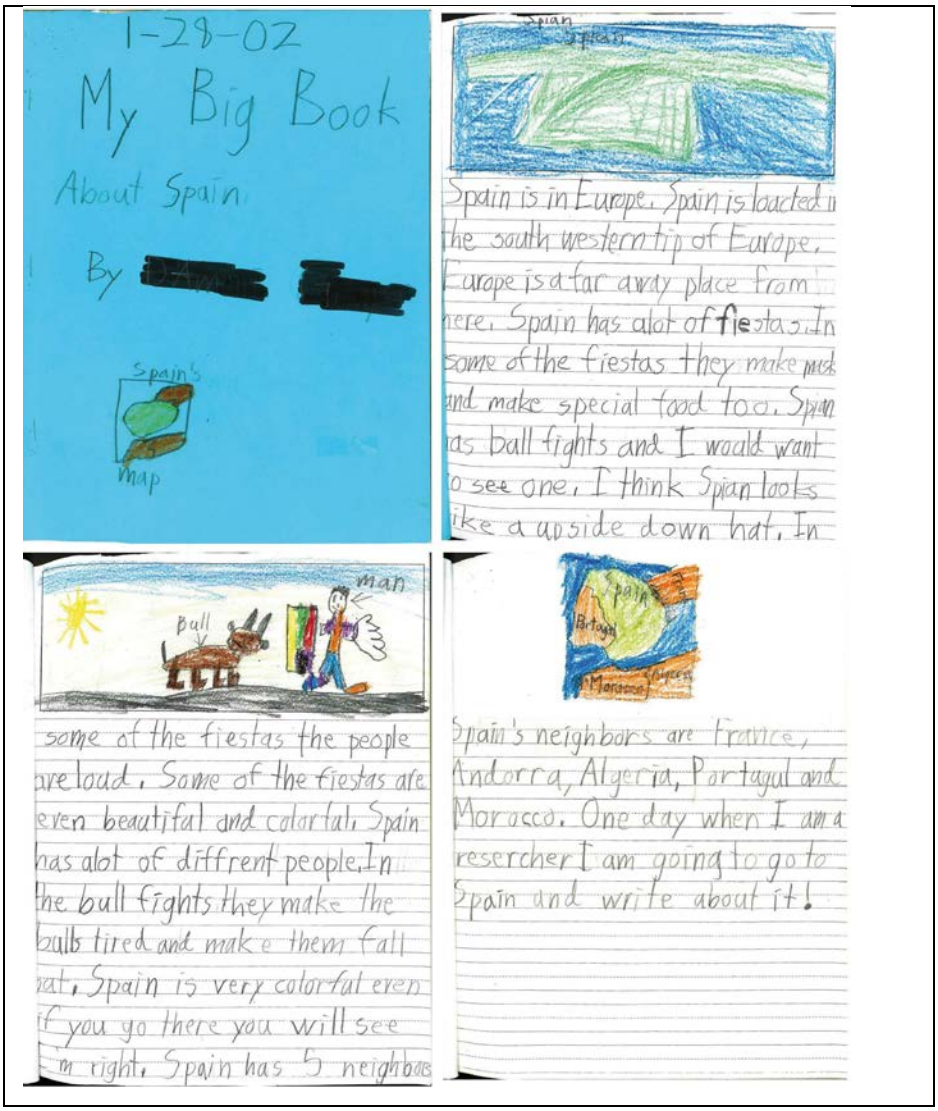
Children learn to reflect on the effectiveness of their own and others' writing as they share writing. Some selections are revised after feedback from the teacher or peers. Some are published, such as when each child contributes a page produced digitally to a class book. Children engage deeply with a number of texts, use language to communicate with peers, and problem solve as they pursue research topics and present in writing what they learned (W.1.7).

First graders write opinion pieces, informative/explanatory texts, and narratives. To meet grade-level expectations for opinion pieces, such as responses to literature, children provide supporting reasons and facts and a sense of closure. They write

narratives that recount two or more sequenced events and use words to signal event order. They work collaboratively with peers and participate in shared research and writing projects, which include the use of a variety of digital tools to edit and publish their work (W1-3, 6,and 7). Writing occurs in relation to text and to topics under study.

Figure 4.30 displays a well-developed informational text written by a first grader (CCSSO/NGA Appendix C 2010, 11). It reveals the child's command over certain conventions, ability to organize information, and, importantly, knowledge of the topic, including relevant vocabulary.

Figure 4.30. Informational Text Written by a Grade One Student



Annotation (page 12, Appendix C, CCSS)

The writer of this piece

- names the topic (in the title).
  - *My Big Book About Spain*
- supplies some facts about the topic.
  - *Spain is loacted* (located) *in the south western tip of Europe.*
  - *Spain has alot of fiestas.*
  - *Spian . . . has bull fights . . .*
  - *Spain's neighbors are France, Andorra, Algeria, Portugal and Morocco.*

  provides some sense of closure.
  - *One day when I am a researcher I am going to go to Spain and write about it!*
- demonstrates command of some of the conventions of standard written English.
- This piece illustrates the writer's awareness of beginning-of-sentence capitalization and end-of-sentence punctuation as well as the use of capital letters for proper nouns.

Children are provided and discuss many models or writing, including the texts they are read, those they begin to read on their own or with others, and those written by and with the teacher as well as those written by peers. They attend to and discuss word choice and sentence structures.

Discussing

As in all grades, text interactions and other learning experiences (such as science investigations, research projects, skill instruction in dance, concept development in mathematics and so on) are surrounded with discussions. Children converse with one another in pairs and small groups and they participate in large group discussions led by the teacher before, during, and after engaging with texts and topics. These discussions contribute to meaning making and language development, and they broaden children's exposure to a range of perspectives.

In order for children to express themselves effectively in discussion, teachers provide explicit instruction and guidance in discussion behaviors and skills. They talk about discussion norms (such as giving and taking the floor, respecting others' contributions, listening actively) and they provide children with daily opportunities to

engage in discussion in a variety of configurations. See the Overview of the Span and the Transitional Kindergarten and Kindergarten sections of this chapter for guidance on supporting children's progress in collaborative conversations.

A special emphasis in discussion in grade one is building on the comments of others. Initially, teachers explicitly provide examples and talk about them. They promote children's building on one other's comments with questions and prompts such as those in Figure 4.31. Eventually, children employ these conversational behaviors without direct prompting.

Figure 4.31. Questions and Sentence Starters to Promote Responses to and Building on the Comments of Others

Questions	Sentence Starters
• How would you like to respond to Melissa's comment? • Can someone add to Raphael's point? • Let's take that a little further. Tell a neighbor more about what Jim just said. • What would you ask Tom to clarify? • Can someone add a few details to Phyllis's summary? • What does Clarence's idea make you think?	• I have this to say about Josh's comment: _____ • I would like to add _____ • Talia said _____, and I agree because _____ • Someone who disagrees might say _____ • Another reason is _____ • Ruth's comment was interesting because _____ • What he said was important because _____

Children may also be given specific tasks to address in small groups. For example, they may be charged with discussing how to improve playground cleanup, how to reorganize the classroom furniture for more space for independent activities, when to best schedule quiet reading time during the day, where to store art supplies, or how to care for the class garden on weekends. When confronted with a class conflict, teachers may ask children to talk in small groups to identify and discuss at least three solutions to the issue.

It is crucial that all children learn how to engage in discussions and, importantly, that they feel welcome to contribute. Teachers play a critical role in ensuring that both of these happen. Formative assessment, in the form of close observation, informs

teachers' decisions for in-the-moment scaffolding as well as their plans for subsequent instruction.

Presenting

In grade one, children have many opportunities to present their opinions, stories, and knowledge to others. Some presentations require more planning and rehearsal than others. Some presentations are collaborative and some are individual. Teachers ensure that students have adequate background knowledge and vocabulary to effectively present. They provide instruction and demonstrate effective presentations themselves and they debrief with children, as appropriate. Presenting in grade one takes many forms, including:

- showing and telling (see the Kindergarten section)
- retelling a familiar story
- explaining how to perform a task
- sharing with others a group experience
- "reading" a wordless picture book
- reporting the outcome of a research project
- reciting, with expression, poems and rhymes that have been memorized (SL.1.4a)
- singing, with expression, for others (SL.4.a)

Audiences vary, most often including peers. However, children have opportunities to present for family and community members. Some presentations are video or audio recorded and shared with audiences well beyond the local region. Presentations in English and the primary languages of the children are encouraged.

Using Language Conventions

The use of language conventions contributes to effective expression. In grade one, children learn many grammatical and usage conventions for use when writing and speaking (L.1.1) and they learn grade-level capitalization, punctuation, and spelling conventions when writing (L.1.2). Conventions are taught explicitly and children have immediate opportunities to apply their knowledge, both in writing and speaking. They also find the application of written conventions in the texts they read. They recognize that conventions enable better communication.

Spelling is an important component of the ELA/literacy program. Children learn to use their growing knowledge of the alphabetic system to record their ideas. As they learn to spell, encoding language contributes to decoding skills. These reciprocal processes are taught in tandem to optimize development of both. In subsequent grades, spelling instruction shifts from more of a phonological approach to a morphological approach.

In grade one, many children will spell phonetically. (See the discussion of spelling development in the Overview of the Span in Chapter 5.) They will use their growing knowledge of letter-sound correspondences along with their developing phonemic awareness to map sounds to print. Invented spellings are typical; children record the sounds they hear in words, writing *duk* for *duck* and *frnd* for *friend*. This is a productive time as children gain insight into the logic of the alphabetic system. Instruction focuses on drawing the connections between decoding and phonological awareness. Children use letter tiles to construct spoken words. They learn common spelling patterns (along with some irregularly spelled words). Grade one teachers witness the impact of their instruction as children progress from prephonetic/emergent spelling to phonetic spelling to largely accurate use of spelling patterns in single-syllable words. (See Figure 5.8 in Chapter 5 for a description of spelling stages.)

Content Knowledge

The importance of content knowledge has been discussed throughout this framework. Grade one children are provided rich content instruction that deepens their knowledge of the world; expands their language; familiarizes them with diverse ways of thinking about, pursuing, and expressing information; and ignites their interests. Content knowledge is built through excellent subject matter instruction as well as through wide reading, rich interactions with informational text, and engagement in research projects.

Wide reading is promoted and facilitated. Wide reading occurs through teacher read alouds and, as children become skilled with decoding and word recognition,

through independent reading. Informational texts represent about half of the texts in the curriculum. They are selected for use as read alouds, for large and small group reading instruction, and for independent reading. Informational texts used in grade one reflect and expand children's interests and experiences, and they are carefully selected to support content area standards. (See also Chapter 3 for a discussion of wide and independent reading.)

Research projects are an important part of building content knowledge. Children pursue questions and synthesize the information they gather. They may interview knowledgeable others, explore texts, and, with guidance, and engage in Internet searches. They may participate in hands on investigations and keep records in journals, including diagrams, lists, findings, and more questions. Research is a powerful way of integrating many of the CA CCSS for ELA/Literacy. The CA ELD Standards amplify and highlight many of the skills demanded of research.

Foundational Skills

In grade one, children advance significantly in their phonological awareness, basic decoding and word recognition skills, and fluency. They learn to decode and recognize increasingly complex words accurately and automatically and they have many opportunities to practice using their skills.

Print Concepts

In kindergarten, children developed many print concepts. In grade one, they learn the distinguishing features of a sentence, such as first word capitalization and ending punctuation. These are concepts are taught explicitly and attention is drawn to them in texts they read. Furthermore, they employ these concepts in their own writing.

Phonological Awareness

Children made great strides in their development of phonological awareness in kindergarten. In grade one, they accomplish the remaining phonological awareness standards displayed in Figure 4.32.

Figure 4.32. Grade One Phonological Awareness Standards (RF.1.2a-d) with Examples

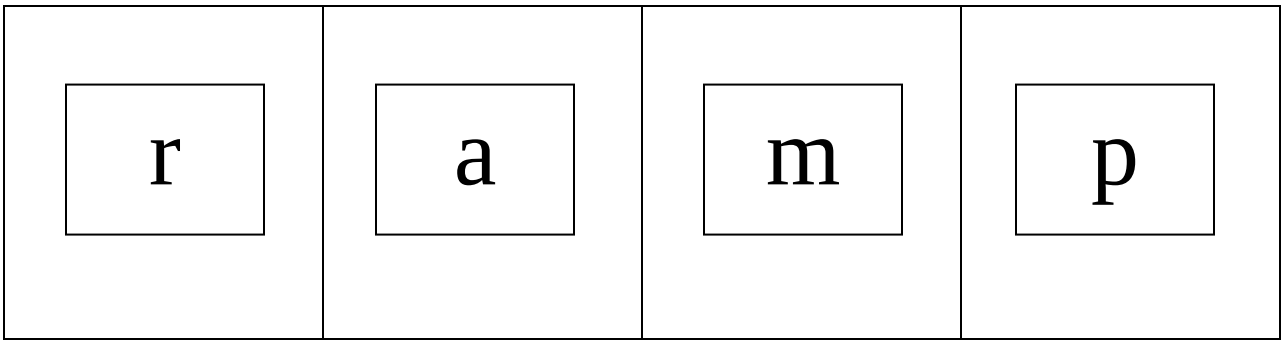
Standard	Example
a. Distinguish long from short vowel sounds in spoken single-syllable words	They say that *tape* and *tap* are different words when they hear them spoken.
b. Orally produce single-syllable words by blending sounds (phonemes,) including consonant blends.	They say stop when asked to blend the orally presented phonemes /s/-/t/-/o/-/p/.
c. Isolate and pronounce initial, medial vowel, and final sounds (phonemes) in spoken single-syllable words.	They say /f/ when asked the first phoneme in the orally presented word *food*. They say /o/ when asked the medial phoneme in the orally presented word *dog*. They say /t/ when asked the final phoneme is the word *hot*. [Note: Isolating the medial vowel is more difficult than isolating the initial or final phonemes and generally will be addressed after children successfully isolate initial and final phonemes.]
d. Segment spoken single-syllable words into their complete sequence of individual sounds (phonemes)	They say /f/-/r/-/o/-/g/ when asked to say all the sounds in order (segment) in the spoken word *frog*.

As noted previously, phonological awareness is an exceptionally important understanding--one that contributes to children's ability to gain independence with the alphabetic code. Some children will have achieved phonological awareness prior to grade one and will require little instruction; their time will be better spent engaged in other learning experiences. Other children will require quite a bit of instruction. Because children who experience difficulty with phonological awareness are likely to have difficulty becoming independent readers and writers, assessment is crucial and it must followed by appropriate additional instruction.

In grade one, phonemic awareness instruction is tied closely with decoding. Children use letters to represent the sounds that comprise words they heard. They may use Elkonin boxes to segment words into phonemes, but rather than using blank chips, children place letter cards or tiles in the boxes to represent each sound they hear in a spoken word. (See Figure 4.33) The class environment continues to support phonological play as children recite and compose poems and songs that manipulate

sounds and listen to and interact with books that have play with phonemes as a dominate feature. (See previous sections on phonological awareness in this chapter.)

Figure 4.33. An Elkonin Box with Letter Tiles



Children experiencing difficulty with phonological awareness must be provided additional or intensified instruction as this insight is crucial in reading and writing development.

Phonics and Word Recognition

In terms of decoding and word recognition, children entering grade one should possess two critical skills: (1) a developing understanding of the phonological basis of spoken language, and (2) knowledge of letter-sound correspondences. Some children combine the two skills intuitively. They use their awareness of sounds in spoken words with their knowledge of letter-sound correspondences to identify and blend the sounds represented in a printed word, and thus, generate a word.[3] A priority of grade one instruction is that children develop the alphabetic insight and use that insight and accompanying skills to decode words independently and automatically.

Automaticity with individual words comes with practice. Children read decodable texts in which most words are composed of taught letter-sound correspondences and some words are taught directly as sight words. Decodable text is used as an intermediary step between initial skill acquisition and the children's ability to read quality trade books. It contains the phonic elements with which children are familiar. However,

[3] Deaf and hard-of-hearing children use alternate paths to the acquisition of printed English and the alphabetical principle upon which it is based.

the text should be unfamiliar to the children so that they have the opportunity to apply word-analysis skills and not reconstruct text they have memorized.

Explicit instruction and attention to the letters in words and ample opportunities to practice decoding words results in automaticity—the ability to recognize a word effortlessly and rapidly. Decoding is essential to reading unfamiliar words independently and is a critical benchmark in a child's reading development.

Decoding instruction in grade one:

- Ensures children can blend sounds to generate words
- Progresses systematically from simple word types (e.g., consonant-vowel-consonant) and word lengths (e.g., number of phonemes) and word complexity (e.g., phonemes in the word, position of blends, stop sounds) to more complex words
- Models instruction at each of the fundamental stages (e.g., associating letters with the sounds they represent, blending sounds to generate whole words)
- Sequences words strategically to incorporate knowledge of letters or letter-sound combinations
- Provides practice in controlled connected text in which children can apply their newly learned skills successfully
- Includes repeated opportunities to read words in contexts in which children apply their knowledge of letter-sound correspondences and which leads to automaticity with words
- Uses decodable text as an intervening step between explicit skill acquisition and the children's ability to read quality trade books
- Teaches necessary sight words to make more interesting stories accessible

Grade one instruction in word recognition includes teaching high-frequency irregular word systematically. Words with high utility are selected and used judiciously in early reading. Teachers point out irregularities while focusing children's attention on all letters and letter combinations in the word and provide repeated practice. The number of irregular words introduced is controlled so that the children are not be overwhelmed. High-frequency irregular words (e.g., *was, said, they, there*), often confused by young children, are strategically separated for initial instruction as well.

Instruction in word families and word patterns (i.e., reading orthographic units of text, such as *at, sat, fat, rat,* sometimes referred to as phonograms) begins after children have learned the letter-sound correspondences in the unit (Ehri and McCormick 1998). Teaching children to process larger, highly represented patterns increases fluency in word recognition. However, the instruction is carefully coordinated and builds on knowledge gained from instruction in letter-sound correspondence. A different path is followed by deaf and hard-of-hearing students who do not have complete access to the letter-sound correspondences of English. ASL, fingerspelling, reading, and writing skills are interwoven and come together for deaf students. The merging of these skills enables the development of the alphabetic principle (Baker 2010).

By the end of grade one, children know and apply grade-level phonics and word analysis skills in decoding words both in isolation and in text. (See Figure 4.34.)

Figure 4.34. Grade One Phonics and Word Recognition Standards (RF.1.3a-g) with Examples

Standard	Example
a. Know the spelling-sound correspondences for common consonant digraphs.	When children see the printed letter “sh,” they indicate that it represents the sound /sh/. When they hear the sound /sh/, they identify the letter combination that represents it. Additional consonant digraphs are *th, wh, kn, wr, ph.*
b. Decode regularly spelled one-syllable words.	When children see the written word “dog” (CVC pattern), they use their knowledge of spelling-sound correspondences to say and blend the sounds to pronounce the word. Other regularly spelled one-syllable word patterns include VC (*if*), VCC (*ask*), CVCC (*fast*), CCVC (*drop*).
c. Know final -e and common vowel team conventions for representing long vowel sounds.	When children see the written word “hide,” they use their knowledge that -e generally indicates that the preceding vowel is long and pronounce the word. They also know other common vowel teams that represent long vowels, such as ai (*rain*), ea (eat), ee (*feet*), oa (*boat*).
d. Use knowledge that every syllable must have a vowel sound to determine the number of syllables in a printed word.	When they see the written word “before,” they identify the two vowel sounds, /ē/ and /o_e/, and indicate that the word has two syllables. They use that knowledge to decode the word.

e. Decode two-syllable words following basic patterns by breaking the words into syllables.	When children see the word "open," they identify the two syllables and use their knowledge that the first syllable is open so the vowel is pronounced with the long sound and the second syllable is closed so the vowel is pronounced with the short sound. They also use their knowledge of other basic syllable patterns (syllables with vowel teams, *r*-controlled vowels, with consonant-*le*).
f. Read words with inflectional endings.	When children see the written word "playing," they recognize the base word and the ending and pronounce the word. Other common inflectional endings are *-est, -ed.*
g. Recognize and read grade-appropriate irregularly spelled words.	When children see the printed word "once," they quickly and accurately pronounce it.

Fluency

First graders learn to read aloud fluently in a manner that resembles natural speech. Although important in its own right, fluency has significant implications for comprehension. A primary reason for its importance is that if children are not fluent, automatic decoders, they will spend so much mental energy decoding words that they will have too little energy left for comprehension (Stanovich 1994). Comprehension clearly involves more than fluent word recognition but is dependent on fluent word recognition (Shanahan, and others 2010). Practice in fluency is most appropriate when children are accurate word readers. One technique that has been used to increase fluency is repeated readings of the same text to develop familiarity and automaticity (National Reading Panel 2000; Samuels 1979). Rereadings, however, should be purposeful, such as when children prepare for a performance. In grade children:

- Read on-level text with purpose and understanding
- Read on-level text orally with accuracy, appropriate rate, and expression on successive readings
- Use context to confirm or self-correct word recognition and understanding, rereading as necessary

EL first graders can and should develop foundational reading skills at the same pace as their non-EL peers. However, teachers must assess children's knowledge both in English and in the native/home language in order to provide appropriate instruction.

Figure 4.35 provides guidance on considerations for using the CCSS foundational reading skills with EL children.

Figure 4.35. CA ELD Standards Appendix A: Foundational Literacy Skills in Grade One

Student Language and Literacy Characteristics		Considerations for Foundational Literacy Skills Instruction	CA CCSS for ELA/Literacy Reading Standards: Foundational Skills
Oral Skills	No or little spoken English proficiency	Students will need instruction in recognizing and distinguishing the sounds of English as compared or contrasted with sounds in their native language (e.g., vowels, consonants, consonant blends, syllable structures).	**Phonological Awareness** 2. Demonstrate understanding of spoken words, syllables, and sounds (phonemes). • RF.K.2 • RF.1.2
	Spoken English proficiency	Students will need instruction in applying their knowledge of the English sound system to foundational literacy learning.	
Print Skills	No or little native language literacy	Students will need instruction in print concepts.	**Print Concepts** 1. Demonstrate understanding of the organization and basic features of print. • RF.K.1 • RF.1.1 **Phonics and Word Recognition** 3. Know and apply grade-level phonics and word analysis skills in decoding words. • RF.K.3 • RF.1.3
	Some foundational literacy proficiency in a language not using the Latin alphabet (e.g., Arabic, Chinese, Korean, Russian)	Students will be familiar with print concepts, and will need instruction in learning the Latin alphabet for English, as compared or contrasted with their native language writing system (e.g., direction of print, symbols representing whole words, syllables or phonemes).	
	Some foundational literacy proficiency in a language using the Latin	Students will need instruction in applying their knowledge of print concepts, phonics and word	

	alphabet (e.g., Spanish)	recognition to the English writing system, as compared or contrasted with their native language alphabet (e.g., letters that are the same or different, or represent the same or different sounds) and native language vocabulary (e.g., cognates) and sentence structure (e.g., subject-verb-object vs. subject-object-verb word order).	**Fluency** 4. Read with sufficient accuracy and fluency to support comprehension. ● RF.1.4

An Integrated and Interdisciplinary Approach

As discussed in the Overview of the Span in this chapter, the CA CCSS for ELA/Literacy and the CA ELD Standards call for an integration of reading, writing, speaking, and listening. In addition, these two sets of standards are intended to live in every content area. Learning subject matter demands understanding and using its language to comprehend, clarify, and communicate concepts. The following snapshots illustrate how this integration of ELA strands among themselves and with other content areas plays out in grade one classrooms.

Snapshot 4.9 Integrated Strands of the ELA in Grade One
Before guiding a small group of first graders in reading an informational text, Miss Zielonka asks the children to examine the Table of Contents. The teacher asks the children to think about the purpose of the table. Why did the author include it? How does it assist readers? The children share their thoughts with a partner and then several offer their ideas to the group. The teacher acknowledges that the table informs readers of the categories of information in the text and she expresses interest in the topics the author has included. With support, the children read the book, identifying and talking about the main ideas of the content at appropriate points. They pause at new sections and revisit the Table of Contents to confirm that the table matches the sections**.** Later, the children have time to explore other books in the classroom library. They discover that some books have Tables of Contents while others do not. After further instruction, the children will write their own informational books on topics they have been researching. They will include headings and a Table of Contents.
CA CCSS for ELA/Literacy: RI.1.2, 5; W.1.2,4; SL.1.1, 2; L.1.1-3, 6

Snapshot 4.10 Integrated ELA and Science in Grade One
First graders engage in a hands-on activity and later view Web pages and printed texts on the topic of erosion. They demonstrate their understandings of the content by engaging in a discussion with the teacher and peers. In small teams, and with guidance, children use digital cameras to take photographs of erosion on their school grounds. Photographs include images of small valleys created by rain run-off and a wearing down of the asphalt where there is high traffic. They insert the photos into a digital presentation using software such as PowerPoint or Keynote and add text to explain the images. They share their digital presentation with a neighboring class and decide they would like to post it on the class Web page.
CA CCSS for ELA/Literacy: RI.1.7; W.1.2,6; SL.1.2,5; L.1.1-3, 6 **Next Generation Science Standards**: 1-ESS1: Planning and Carrying Out Investigations (Science and Engineering Practices)

In grade one, the main instructional emphases in designated ELD should be oral language development, including many opportunities for children to engage in collaborative discussions and a strong emphasis on general academic and domain-specific vocabulary, as well as language awareness building, including attention to understanding how to organize texts and enrich them with particular language resources. Teachers should model various ways of using English, as well as curiosity about how English works, and design engaging and fun activities where students use and explore a variety of language resources. During designated ELD children should *discuss ideas and information* from ELA and other content areas using the language of those content areas and also *discuss the new language* they are learning to use. For an extended discussion of how the ELD Standards are used throughout the day in tandem with the CA CCSS for ELA/Literacy and other content standards and as the principle standards during Designated ELD, see the Overview of the Span section of this chapter.

English Language Development in Grade One

From their first days in Grade One, teachers support their EL students to learn English, learn content knowledge through English, and learn about how English works. English language development occurs throughout the day across the disciplines and also during a time specifically designated for developing English based on EL student's language learning needs, although differences in approaches to ELD will vary depending on the program of instruction in which children are enrolled (e.g., mainstream

English, two-way immersion). The CA ELD Standards serve as a guide for teachers to meet the English language development needs of their EL students throughout the day during ELA and other content areas, and how to focus on these language learning needs strategically during a time specifically designated for this purpose. The CA ELD Standards should be used in tandem with the CA CCSS for ELA/Literacy, as well as other related content standards.

Designated ELD is a time during the regular school day where teachers work with EL children grouped by similar English proficiency levels and focus on critical language the students need to develop in order to be successful in school subjects, with a particular emphasis on developing academic language. Designated ELD time is an opportunity to focus on and delve deeper into the linguistic resources of English that EL children need to develop in order to engage with content, make meaning from it, and create oral and written texts in ways that meet the expectations of the CA CCSS for ELA/Literacy and other content standards. Accordingly, the CA ELD Standards are the primary standards used during this designated time. However, the content focus is derived from other areas of the curriculum.

The main instructional emphases in designated ELD should be oral language development, including collaborative discussions, language awareness building, and a strong emphasis on general academic and domain-specific vocabulary, but other understandings about literary and informational texts enter into designated ELD instruction, as well. During designated ELD children should *discuss ideas and information* from ELA and other content areas using the language (e.g., vocabulary, grammatical structures) of those content areas and also *discuss the new language* they are learning to use. For example, a teacher might lead her students in writing activity where the students write opinion pieces about a story they read during ELA. She might structure the question in such a way as to promote the use of particular language (e.g., Why did you enjoy this book? – or - Why do you think other children would enjoy reading this book? Give three reasons.). She might provide support for the children to discuss their ideas using new vocabulary and grammatical structures by asking them to use an open sentence frame when they share (e.g., I *enjoyed* this book because _____. – or - Other children *might enjoy* this book because _____.). During designated ELD,

teachers can ensure that EL students have the time and opportunity to discuss their ideas using new language that they will need for fully engaging in ELA and other content areas. For an extended discussion of how the CA ELD Standards are used throughout the day in tandem with the CA CCSS for ELA/Literacy and other content standards and as the principle standards during designated ELD, see the Overview of the Span in this chapter and Chapter 2.

ELA/Literacy and ELD in Action

The research-based implications for ELA/Literacy and ELD instruction have been outlined previously in the transitional kindergarten through grade one overview of the span, and in Chapter 2. In the following section, detailed examples illustrate how the principles and practices discussed in the preceding sections look in California classrooms. The examples provided are not intended to present the only approaches to teaching and learning. Rather, they are intended to provide concrete illustrations of how teachers might enact the CCSS for ELA/Literacy and the CA ELD Standards in integrated ways that support deep learning for all students.

Both the CA CCSS for ELA/Literacy and the CA ELD Standards acknowledge the importance of immersing children in complex texts in the early years of schooling. Because young children's listening comprehension generally outpaces their ability to read independently, teacher read alouds are of critical importance. When teachers read aloud well-written literary and informational texts, they expose children to rich language (including vocabulary and complex grammatical structures), new ideas, and content knowledge the children may not be able to access on their own through independent reading. Young children need many opportunities to discuss the texts teachers read aloud to them. These discussions about texts help with the development of both content knowledge and oral language development, and they serve as a bridge to successful reading and writing. Teacher read alouds are of critical importance for EL children because school may be the only place where they engage in listening to and discussing texts read aloud in English. For children in bilingual programs, teacher read alouds in both languages is crucial for biliteracy development.

Teachers should read aloud both literary and informational texts. Reading aloud informational texts in core content areas (e.g., science, social studies) is essential for

full literacy development as the content, text organization and structure, vocabulary, and even the types of grammatical structures used varies by content area. Reading aloud informational texts in science and the collaborative conversations that accompany these read alouds help children think about science concepts in new ways as they are simultaneously learning the language of science. Teacher read alouds of informational science texts should be linked to or embedded in rich science instruction, as children's engagement with science practices and concepts through science instruction enhance their ability to interact meaningfully with science informational texts.

Teacher read alouds require advance planning in order to provide appropriate levels of scaffolding based on the needs of diverse learners. Teachers must understand their students particular learning needs, carefully select books and know them well, and know when to incorporate particular tasks and scaffolding techniques. When planning lessons, teachers should enact the principles and practices discussed in this chapter and throughout this framework. Lesson planning should look forward to year-end and unit goals, be responsive to assessed needs, and incorporate the framing questions in Figure 4.36.

Figure 4.36. Framing Questions for Lesson Planning

Framing Questions for All Students	Add for English Learners
• What are the big ideas and culminating performance tasks of the larger unit of study, and how does this lesson build toward them? • What are the learning targets for this lesson, and what should students be able to do at the end of the lesson? • Which clusters of CA CCSS for ELA/Literacy does this lesson address? • What background knowledge, skills, and experiences do my students have related to this lesson? • How complex are the texts and tasks I'll use? • How will students make meaning, express themselves effectively, develop language, learn content? How will they apply or learn foundational skills? • What types of supports (such as scaffolding), accommodations, or modifications,* will individual students need for effectively engaging in the lesson tasks? • How will my students and I monitor learning during and after the lesson, and how will that inform instruction?	• What are the English language proficiency levels of my students? • Which CA ELD Standards amplify the CA CCSS for ELA/Literacy at students' English language proficiency levels? • What language might be new for students and/or present challenges? • How will students interact in meaningful ways and learn about how English works in collaborative, interpretive, and/or productive modes?
*Scaffolding, accommodations, and modifications are discussed in Chapters 3 and 9.	

ELA and ELD Vignettes

The following two vignettes illustrate how a teacher might implement the CA CCSS for ELA/Literacy and the CA ELD Standards using the framing questions provided in Figure 4.36. The first vignette for integrated ELA and science instruction presents a glimpse into an instructional unit and a closer look at a lesson. In the vignette, the teacher guides her students' thinking about the science concepts presented in the text, and she provides them with opportunities to discuss the text in order to make meaning. She focuses on supporting students to identify the main idea of a section in a text, using textual evidence to support their ideas. She also guides the students to pay closer attention to the language in the informational text she reads aloud and to use the language of the text as they express their understandings. The

ELA Vignette is an example of appropriate instruction for all CA classrooms, and additional attention is provided for using the CA ELA/Literacy and CA ELD Standards in tandem for EL children. The second vignette presents a designated ELD lesson that builds into and from the ELA lesson in order to support EL children in their steady development of social and academic English.

ELA Vignette

Vignette 4.5: ELA/Science Instruction in First Grade

Read Alouds with Informational Texts

Background: Ms. Fabian reads aloud informational texts to her students daily during integrated science and ELA instruction. She intentionally selects informational texts rich in content knowledge that are engaging and that provide opportunities for her students to discuss their ideas and develop academic language. Her class of thirty-five first graders consists of fifteen native English speakers and twenty EL children with several primary languages. Most of the EL children began the year at an expanding level of English language proficiency and are conversant in everyday English.

Lesson Context: During integrated science and ELA instruction, Mrs. Fabian is teaching her first graders about bees. Her goal for the end of the unit is for the children to write and illustrate their own informational texts, which will provide descriptions of bees (e.g., their anatomy, habitat, behavior) and also explain how bees pollinate crops and why they are so important to humans. The children actively listen to multiple informational texts on the topic and ask and answer questions about the information they're learning. They've viewed videos and visited websites about bees and pollination, observed (from a distance) bees pollinating flowers in the school garden, and acted out the process of pollination using models of bees and large flowers with "pollen" in them.

The class began generating a "bee word wall" with vocabulary - accompanied by illustrations and photographs - from the informational texts and activities in the unit. The words are grouped semantically. For example, the words describing the bee's anatomy (head, thorax, abdomen, proboscis) are presented as labels for an illustration of a bee. The class continues to add terms as they progress through the unit. Mrs. Fabian strategically "code switches" between English and Spanish to scaffold understanding for her Spanish-speaking EL students and uses words in the primary language of her other EL students as often as she can.

Lesson Excerpts: In today's lesson, Mrs. Fabian will be modeling for her students how to read a section of the informational text closely, and she'll guide them to discuss the content of the text using domain-specific vocabulary from the text. Her goal is not for students to know every single fact from the passage but, rather, to focus their attention on what's most important and to think about how the author presented ideas. Her learning target and the clusters of CA CCSS for ELA/Literacy and CA ELD Standards in focus for the lesson are the following:

Learning Target: The students will identify the main topic of an informational text they listen to, using good reasons and evidence to support their ideas.

Primary CA CCSS for ELA/Literacy Addressed:*RI.1.2 - Identify the main topic and retell key details of a text; RI.1.3 - Describe the connection between two individuals, events, ideas, or pieces of information in a text; RI.1.7 - Use the illustrations and details in a text to describe its key ideas; W.1.7 - Participate in shared research and writing projects … ; SL.1.1 -Participate in collaborative conversations with diverse partners; SL.1.2 - Ask and answer questions about key details in a text read aloud … ; L.1.6 - Use words and phrases acquired through conversations, reading and being read to, and responding to texts…*

Primary CA ELD Standards Addressed (Expanding level shown):*ELD.PI.1 - Contribute to class, group, and partner discussions by listening attentively, following turn-taking rules, and asking and answering questions; ELD.PI.5 - Demonstrate active listening to read-alouds and*

oral presentations by asking and answering questions with oral sentence frames and occasional prompting and support; ELD.PI.11 - Offer opinions and provide good reasons and some textual evidence or relevant background knowledge (e.g., paraphrased examples from text or knowledge of content); ELD.PI.12b - Use a growing number of general academic and domain-specific words …

Mrs. Fabian begins by *briefly* activating the students' background knowledge about bees and previewing the passage they'll be reading closely.

> Mrs. Fabian: Children, we've been learning a lot about bees lately. I'm going to give you one minute to take turns sharing with your partner at least three things you know about bees. If both of you are done sharing before the minute is up, you can share even more things.

The children quickly turn to their partners and share their ideas animatedly, using the "bee word wall" as a reference. Mrs. Fabian observes them to determine which ideas students are expressing and how they are expressing them.

> Mrs. Fabian: Wow! I can tell you already know a lot about bees. Today, we are going to learn something new. We are going reread a couple of pages in one book we've been reading, "The Honeymakers" by Gail Gibbons. As you listen, I'd like for you to think about what this part is *mostly* about. (Reading from a passage mid-way through the book) "At each flower the forager bee collects nectar with her proboscis. She stores the nectar in a special part of her body called the crop, or honey stomach. This stomach is separate from her other stomach" (Gibbons, p. 14).

As Mrs. Fabian reads these first three sentences in the passage she's focusing on, she points to the illustrations depicting some of the domain specific vocabulary (*proboscis, crop*). She briefly explains other vocabulary (e.g., *nectar*, or the sweet juice inside the flower) to make sure all students understand the text. While the children are familiar with this content as they've been learning about it in science, the language is still quite new for them. After she's read the third sentence, she stops and asks the children a question.

> Mrs. Fabian: The author is giving us a lot of information here. What do you think this part of the book is *mostly* about? Think for a moment (pauses for several seconds). When you share your idea, use this sentence frame: This part is *mostly* about __. Let's say that together.

After the children say the open sentence frame chorally with Mrs. Fabian, they use it to share their ideas, while Mrs. Fabian listens carefully. She notices that one of her EL students, Chue has a good grasp on the main idea, and he's shared with his partner some evidence from the text to support his idea. A few other students are sharing their ideas but are still not quite sure about what the main idea from the passage is.

> Mrs. Fabian: Chue, can you tell me what you shared with your partner?
> Chue: I share that the part is *mostly* about the bees when they get nectar.
> Mrs. Fabian: Can you explain why you think that? What happened in this part that makes you think that?
> Chue: Because it talking about how the forager bee get nectar from the flower with the proboscis and then it put it in it stomach.
> Mrs. Fabian: That's good evidence that tells me that this part is mostly about the forager bees collecting nectar. Children, listen carefully as I reread that part so we can make sure we're getting the main idea (rereads the passage). Thumbs up or down everyone if you agree that this part is mostly about the bees collecting nectar.

Mrs. Fabian writes "bees collecting nectar" on the chart next to her. As she reads the next part of the passage, she again uses the illustrations to point out some of the words that are depicted in them (pollen, pollen basket) and she acts out some of the bee behavior the passage describes (e.g., collect). The information in this part of the passage is relatively new for the children, and Mrs. Fabian asks another question to promote their understanding of the passage and to model how to read a text more closely.

Mrs. Fabian: "As she goes from flower to flower she comes in contact with a yellow powder called pollen. Some of the pollen is collected in little 'baskets' formed by the special hairs on her hind legs. As the forager bee collects nectar, she carries pollen from flower to flower. This process is called pollination." And down here, in this corner, it says, "This makes seeds to grow new plants" (Gibbons, pp.14-15). Now, here's some pretty new information for us. This might be a little trickier than the last one we did, but what do you think this part of the book is *mostly* about? And why do you think that? Think about the details.

Mrs. Fabian places the open book under the document reader so the children can refer to the illustrations and text as they discuss their ideas in partners. As she listens to her students, she observes that most of them say that the part is mostly about pollen, and some students are saying it's about "baskets," or "seeds." The children point to the illustrations as they discuss their understandings.

Mrs. Fabian: Inés, what do you think?
Inés: I think it's mostly about the pollen.
Mrs. Fabian: And can you explain more? Why do you think it's mostly about pollen?
Inés: Because it says that the bee gets pollen on its legs and then it goes to the flowers.
Mrs. Fabian: Okay, let's read that again. (Rereads the part.)
Inés: I think maybe it's about pollinaton?
Mrs. Fabian: That's a big word, isn't it? Let's all say that word together.
Children: (Chorally with Mrs. Fabian) Pollination.
Mrs. Fabian: And what makes you think that, Inés?
Inés: (Shrugging.)
Mrs. Fabian: Can someone add on to what Inés said? Brandon?
Brandon: It said that the bees get the pollen on their legs and then it goes to the flower. (Pauses.)
Mrs. Fabian: And then what happens?
Brandon: And then it's called pollination. It makes seeds so the plants grow.
Mrs. Fabian: Oh, so what you're all saying is that the bee gets pollen on its legs, in its pollen baskets, and when it goes from flower to flower, it gets pollen on the other flowers. And that's what makes the flowers make seeds so they can grow plants. And that's called the *process* of pollination.
Chue: We did that. When we had the flowers and the yellow powder – the pollen.
Mrs. Fabian: Yes, that's right, you acted out the process of pollination. Let's reread this part just to make sure we have the main idea right (rereads). Okay, so thumbs up or down if you think this part is mostly about the process of pollination.

Mrs. Fabian writes "the process of pollination" under "the bee collecting nectar." Rereading the passage again, she guides the students to tell her how she should label a drawing she's prepared in advance, which illustrates bee pollination (a bee going from flower to flower). Later, she'll post the diagram on the "bee word wall." To wrap up the lesson, Mrs. Fabian models making an inference and guides the children to think a little more deeply about the text.

Mrs. Fabian: Hmm. I'm noticing something interesting here. First the author told us about the *bee collecting nectar*, and then she told us about the *process of pollination*. I wonder why she put these two ideas in the same passage. Why do you think she did that? (Pauses to let the children refer to the illustrations and text as they think about the question.)
Mrs. Fabian: Share what you were thinking with your partner (listens to the children share). Solange and Carlos, what did the two of you share with one another?
Solange: Maybe they get the nectar and the pollen at the same time when they go to the flower?
Carlos: And then they carry the pollen on their legs to another flower. And they get more

nectar and more pollen, and then they keep doing that.
Mrs. Fabian: (Nodding.) I'm thinking that, too. I'm thinking that the author wanted to show that the bees are getting pollen on their legs from all those flowers *while* they're collecting nectar, and that's why she's telling us these two things at the same time. They are happening at the same time, and that's how the pollen travels from one flower to another. What was that big word we learned?
Children: Pollination!

To wrap up the lesson, Mrs. Fabian asks the students to continue to be good scientists when they observe what's happening around them and to notice what's happening – from a distance - when they see a bee outside of school, in a video, or in a book. She asks them to make connections to the text she read to them and to what they are learning in science instruction and to ask themselves questions: Does the bee have *pollen* in its pollen baskets? Is the pollen getting on the flowers? Is the bee getting the *nectar* with its *proboscis*?

Teacher Reflection and Next Steps:
Over the course of the unit, Mrs. Fabian observes her students carefully. She's particularly interested to see if the children are understanding the science concepts they are learning about and if they are using new vocabulary and grammatical structures in their discussions and in writing. For the culminating project, student-written informational texts about bees, Mrs. Fabian provides a writing template that prompts the children to express their understandings, using the new language they've developed.

All About Bees, by _____		
p. 1 Introduction	p. 4 Bee jobs	p. 7 Pollination
p. 2 Bee anatomy	p. 5 Metamorphosis	p. 8 Bee dances
p. 3 The beehive	p. 6 Honey	p. 9 Interesting facts

As they write their texts, the children refer to the "bee word wall," charts and sentence frames posted throughout the room (from their conversations about bees), and numerous informational texts on the topic, which Mrs. Fabian has placed on their tables and in the classroom library. Once finished, each child reads their book to the class in the "Author's Chair," and the books are placed in the classroom library corner to be read over and over again.

But what about…? One student, Maryam, has just arrived to the U.S. from Somalia and is at the early emerging level of English language proficiency. Mrs. Fabian watches Maryam carefully, and she assigns her a "buddy," Tanaad, another first grader who speaks Somali and is a good class helper. Maryam sits next to Tanaad during partner talk and at first listens as Tanaad and his partner discuss the science content. Mrs. Fabian models for Maryam and prompts her to use some simple words and phrases (e.g., *yes, no, what's that?, I don't know, I think X.)* so that she can contribute her ideas to conversations. Maryam is expected to participate in class chants, poems, and songs about bees and pollination, even if she is only able to say a few words at first. At first, she's a little shy, but very soon, she participates enthusiastically in these group language activities because it's fun.

Mrs. Fabian encourages the class to make Maryam feel welcome and successful in her English language development, and her peers encourage her to participate in the activities with them. Before long, Maryam is chatting on the playground and in the classroom using everyday English. With encouragement from Mrs. Fabian and her classmates she begins to participate more in discussions about texts and content. In addition to social English, she is learning the academic English in the bee unit alongside the other children, labeling her drawings with words related to pollination (*pollen, bee, fly*) and using more and more of the words in her spoken interaction with others.

Lesson adapted from Heisey and Kucan (2010), Shanahan, et. al (2010), Spycher, P. (2009); Yopp and Yopp (2012).

Text excerpts are from Gail Gibbons (1997). *The Honeymakers.* New York, NY: Harper Colllins.
Resources: Websites: Readwritethink has lesson ideas for teaching students to read informational texts (www.readwritethink.org). Readingrockets has ideas for using informational texts (www.readingrockets.org). Recommended reading: Heisey, N., and Kucan, L. 2010. Introducing Science Concepts to Primary Students Through Read-Alouds: Interactions and Multiple Texts Make the Difference. *The Reading Teacher* 63 (8): 666–676.

Designated ELD Vignette

The example in the ELA vignette above illustrates good teaching for all students with a particular focus on the needs of EL children and children with special needs. In addition to good first teaching, EL children benefit from intentional and purposeful designated ELD instruction, which the following vignette illustrates.

Vignette 4.6 Designated ELD Instruction in First Grade **Unpacking Sentences**
Background: During an integrated ELA and science unit on bees, Mrs. Fabian observes all of her students carefully as they discuss the science concepts and use new language (see Vignette 4.5 above). She finds that some of her EL students at the Expanding level of English language proficiency are having difficulty describing and explaining their ideas using domain-specific and general academic vocabulary and complex sentences. This makes it difficult for them to convey their understandings of the content she is teaching them, and she suspects that if they if they're not understanding the language in the texts, they may not be fully understanding the science concepts. **Lesson Context:** Mrs. Fabian meets with her first grade team and asks for their ideas in addressing her EL students' language learning needs. The other teachers on the team share that they've had similar challenges, and they decide to work together to plan a series of designated ELD lessons, differentiated by English language proficiency levels, to address their students' language learning needs. The team begins by analyzing the informational science texts they are using for a) the language that is critical for students to understand the science content and b) language that they would like for their students to produce orally and in writing. Some of this language is domain-specific vocabulary, which the teachers decide to address daily in both integrated ELA/science and in designated ELD. In addition to vocabulary, the team also notices that many of the sentences in the informational texts for instruction are densely packed with information, and they determine that rather than simplifying the language for their EL students, they should delve into the language so that their EL students can begin to understand it better. They refer to the CA ELD Standards to see what types of vocabulary and grammatical structures their EL children at the Expanding level should be able to use, and they incorporate this guidance into their planning. They decide to show their students how to "unpack" some of the densely packed sentences in the science texts they are using. They learned this technique in a professional learning seminar provided by their district, and they've adapted it to meet their students' needs. The write the procedure they will use so that they can refine it after they see how it works.

Unpacking Sentences
1. Start with a text you are already using. 2. Identify sentences students find challenging to understand. 3. Focus on meaning: Show students how to unpack the meanings in the sentence by writing a list of simple sentences below it that express the meanings of the sentence. 4. Focus on form: Show students important features of the sentence (for example, how conjunctions are used to connect two ideas in a complex sentence, how propositional phrases are used to add details, vocabulary). 5. Guided practice: Guide the students to help you with steps 3 and 4. 6. Keep it simple: Focus on one or two things and use some everyday language examples, as well as examples from the complex texts. (Adapted from Christie, 2005; Derewianka, 2012; Wong Fillmore, 2013)

In today's lesson, Mrs. Fabian will introduce the "sentence unpacking" technique in order to model how to read/listen to their texts more closely. The learning targets and cluster of CA ELD Standards Mrs. Fabian focuses on are the following:

Learning Target: The students will discuss how to join two ideas to show when things are happening.
Primary CA ELD Standards Addressed (Expanding level shown):*ELD.PI.1 - Contribute to class, group, and partner discussions by listening attentively, following turn-taking rules, and asking and answering questions; ELD.PI.7 - Describe the language writers or speakers use to present or support an idea (e.g., the adjectives used to describe people and places) with prompting and moderate support; ELD.PII.6 - Combine clauses in an increasing variety of ways to make connections between and to join ideas, for example, to express cause/effect (e.g., She jumped because the dog barked.), in shared language activities guided by the teacher and with increasing independence.*

Lesson Excerpts: During designated ELD time, Mrs. Fabian tells her students that in the science books she reads to them, there is often a lot of information packed tightly into the sentences, so she is going to show them some ways to "unpack" the sentences so they can understand the meaning better. She shows her students a tightly packed suitcase.

> Mrs. Fabian: Sometimes, it is hard to see what all the things are inside the suitcase when it is all packed in tightly like that. (Pulling out some of the things that are packed inside - a shirt, a pair of pants, some books and shoes. When we *unpack* the suitcase, we can see all the different things that are in there. Some sentences are similar to the suitcase. Sometimes it is hard to see all the different things that are inside of a sentence, but when we *unpack* it, we can see the different meanings in it.

Mrs. Fabian reads a passage from one of the informational texts about bees that she has previously read and discussed with the whole class. She follows the procedure her team has decided to use in order to show the students how to "unpack" densely packed sentences for their meanings.

> Mrs. Fabian: Children, today we're going to be looking closely at a couple sentences we've seen in the books we've been reading about bees. Here's the first sentence.

She shows the children a sentence from the book "The Honeymakers" by Gail Gibbons, which is written on a sentence strip and placed in the pocket chart.

> "As the forager bee collects nectar, she carries pollen from flower to flower" (Gibbons, p. 15)
>
> Mrs. Fabian: I'm going to model for you how I unpack sentences that have a lot of information in them. (Points the sentence and reads it slowly.) Hmm. It seems like this

sentence is mostly about a bee because the bee is doing some different things.

As Mrs. Fabian models unpacking the sentence through thinking aloud, she pulls shorter sentence strips from behind the original sentence and places them in the rows below, thereby visually "unpacking" the meaning of the sentence in front of the students. She reads each sentence as she places it in the pocket chart.

There's a forager bee.
The bee collects nectar.
The bee has pollen on its legs.
The bee carries the pollen to many flowers.

Mrs. Fabian: That's how I unpack all the ideas in the sentence, but really there are two big ideas. The first is that the bee is collecting nectar, and the second is that the bee is carrying pollen to the flowers. But these ideas are connected in a special way. There's a really important word in the sentence that's connecting the ideas. The word "as" at the beginning of the sentence tells me that the two ideas are happening at the same time.

Mrs. Fabian pulls out another sentence strip and places it under the sentences.

As = At the same time

She has the children read with her chorally the original sentence, the "unpacked" sentences, and the sentence with the word "as" on it. She models unpacking another sentence and follows the procedure of thinking aloud as she pulls the shorter sentences from the pocket chart.

While a worker bee crawls around an apple blossom, the bee is dusted with pollen.

There's a worker bee.
There's an apple blossom.
The bee crawls around an apple blossom.
There's pollen.
The bee gets pollen on its body.
The pollen is like dust.

Mrs. Fabian: Hmm. Here, it says that something *will be transferred* to another blossom. I think the thing that's being transferred, or moved, is pollen, which comes right before that word "which." But something or someone is transferring, or moving, the pollen from one place to another. I think that *the bee* will transfer, or move, pollen from one flower to another flower. So that's why I wrote that the bee *transfer* the pollen to another flower. Sometimes that's hard to figure out, but if you unpack the sentence, it's easier to understand the meanings in it. Let's read the original sentence and the unpacked sentences together.
Children: (Reading the sentences chorally.)
Mrs. Fabian: Did anyone notice that there's another special word at the beginning of the sentence that tells us *when* something is happening?
Carla: While?
Mrs. Fabian: Yes, the word "while" is like the word "as." It tells us that two or more things are happening at the same time. The words "while" and "as" are important for showing how the two ideas are connected.

Mrs. Fabian pulls out another sentence strip and places it below the others.

While = At the same time

> Mrs. Fabian: Let's read the original sentence together again, and then see if you and your partner can tell me what two things are happening at the same time.

Mrs. Fabian guides her students in unpacking other sentences from the texts they're using in integrated ELA and science. Each sentence is a complex sentence containing the subordinate conjunctions "as" or "while." She writes each sentence on the chart paper, reads them with the students, and guides them to tell her what is happening in the sentence so that she can write the unpacked, or simpler sentences, the students tell her on the chart paper. During this process, there is a lot of discussion about the meaning of the original sentence, and she explicitly draws their attention to the way the two ideas are connected using the words "as" and "while."

> Mrs. Fabian: When you connect your ideas using the words "while" and "as," it doesn't matter which idea you put first. For example, I can say, "While you watched me, I wrote a sentence." Or, I can say, "I wrote a sentence while you watched me." I can say, "While I washed the dishes, I sang a song." Or, I can say, "I sang a song, while I washed the dishes." We're going to play a little game connecting ideas.

She hands the children sets of pictures where two things are happening simultaneously (e.g., children are playing on a playground while their parents watch them, a bee sucking nectar from a flower while it collects pollen on its legs), and she writes the words "while" and "as" at the top of a piece of chart paper. She asks the students work in pairs and form sentences with two ideas connected with the word "while" or "as," and she listens to them as they combine their ideas so that she can correct any misunderstandings right away. After the children have constructed multiple sentences in partners, she asks them to tell her some of them, and she writes them on the "while" and "as" chart.

> Mrs. Fabian: Who can tell me why we might want to use the words "while" or "as?"
> Thao: They help us put two ideas together.
> Mrs. Fabian: Yes, they do. Can you say more?
> Thao: (Thinking.) They make the two ideas happen at the same time?
> Mrs. Fabian: Yes, that's right. The words "while" and "as" let us know that two ideas are happening at the same time. Today we unpacked sentences to find out what all the meanings are, and we looked especially closely at how the words "while" and "as" are used to connect ideas. From now on, I want you to be good language detectives. A good language detective is always thinking about how to unpack sentences to understand the meaning better. And a good language detective is someone who is always thinking about how words are used to make meaning. Who thinks they can be a good language detective?
> Children: (Chorally). Me!

Teacher Reflection and Next Steps:
During designated ELD time for the rest of the science unit, Mrs. Fabian occasionally and at strategic times works with her students to unpack sentences in other science texts she is using, focusing on other aspects of the sentences that make them dense (e.g., long noun phrases, prepositional phrases). During the rest of the day, Mrs. Fabian observes her EL children to see if they are using the new language resources she's teaching them in their speaking and writing. She uses a rubric based on the CA ELD Standards to see how individual students are progressing with their use of particular language resources (e.g., vocabulary, grammatical structures, text organization). She encourages them to use the new language by prompting them with questions like, *How can you combine those two ideas to show they're happening at the same time?* The children do not always produce perfect sentences, and Mrs. Fabian chooses her corrective feedback carefully since she knows that the children are experimenting with language, practicing the grammatical structures that they will continue to learn as the unit progresses.

Lesson adapted from Christie, 2005; Derewianka and Jones; 2012; and Schleppegrell 2009.

Resources
Websites:
- The Council of the Great City Schools provides a **Classroom Example of Teaching Complex Text: Butterfly.**

Recommended reading:
Read this article at the Reading Rockets website to see a framework for students' information report writing development in the elementary grades:
Donovan, C. A. and Smolkin, L. B. 2011. Supporting Informational Writing in the Elementary Grades. *The Reading Teacher* 64: 406–416.

Conclusion

The information and ideas in this grade-level section are provided to guide teachers in their instructional planning. Recognizing California's richly diverse student population is critical for instructional and program planning and delivery. Teachers are responsible for educating a variety of learners, including **advanced learners**, **students with disabilities**, **ELs at different English language proficiency levels**, **Standard English learners**, and other **culturally and linguistically diverse learners**, as well as **students experiencing difficulties** with one or another of the themes presented in this chapter (meaning making, effective expression, language development, content knowledge, and foundational skills).

It is beyond the scope of a curriculum framework to provide guidance on meeting the learning needs of every student because each student comes to teachers with unique needs, histories, and circumstances. Teachers must know their students well through appropriate assessment practices and other methods, including communication with families, in order to design effective instruction for them. They need to adapt and refine instruction as appropriate for individual learners. For example, a teacher might anticipate before a lesson is taught--or observe during a lesson-- that a student or a group of students will need some additional or more intensive instruction in a particular area. Based on this evaluation of student needs, the teacher might provide individual or small group instruction, adapt the main lesson, or collaborate with a colleague. (See Figure 4.37.) Information about meeting the needs of diverse learners, scaffolding, and modifying or adapting instruction is provided in Chapters 3 and 9.

First grade children have flung open the doors of literacy and become newly powerful in navigating their way with words, sentences, books, and texts of all types.

They have just begun to glimpse where this road can take them. May they find paths that fill their imaginations with wonder and their minds with grand plans for the future.

Figure 4.37. Collaboration

Collaboration: A Necessity

Frequent and meaningful collaboration with colleagues and parents/families is critical for ensuring that all students meet the expectations of the CA CCSS for ELA/Literacy and the CA ELD Standards. Teachers are at their best when they frequently collaborate with their teaching colleagues to plan instruction, analyze student work, discuss student progress, integrate new learning into their practice, and refine lessons or identify interventions when students experience difficulties. Students are at their best when teachers enlist the collaboration of parents and families as partners in their children's education. Schools are at their best when educators are supported by administrators and other support staff to implement the type of instruction called for in this framework. School districts are at their best when teachers across the district have an expanded professional learning community they can rely upon as thoughtful partners and for tangible instructional resources. More information about these types of collaboration can be found in Chapter 11 and throughout this framework.

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