

A language experience lesson

Language Experience Steps

- Present stimulus (picture, object, video, experience...).
- Discuss with student(s).
- Once student(s) understand stimulus, elicit one (or more) statements from each student about the stimulus.
 - Write down exactly what the students say regardless of grammar or usage, but spell all words the way dictionary does.
 - Incorporate additional cues (color, name, pictures) to text to support memory for later reading.
- Have all students in group read each student's contribution (a) as each one is created and (b) after the text is completed.

Language Experience Follow-Ups

- Track text with your finger or a pointer as students reread on subsequent day(s).
- Reproduce individual student sentences (on sentence strips) with(out) cues, and have students read their own sentences in isolation.
- Cut sentences into individual words and have students reorder to match model, and then read.
 - Once students can do this, some of the words can be added to word wall.
 - Once words on wall, words can be cut apart and letters resequenced to match model.
- What other activities could you then do as follow-ups? (5 minimum)

Values of Language Experience as an Early Reading Teaching Strategy

- What do you think?
- Research suggests:
 - Increased task engagement.
 - It enables students to experience real reading from the very beginning.
 - It is one of more effective strategies for working with older beginning level readers.
- Experience suggests
 - It fits tight budgets.
 - Most teachers don't do much with it, so it is often a new experience for students (and consequently you get increased engagement in learning).