



# Academic Engagement (Students / Families)



*Facilitated by:*

- **Greg Ballweg (Statewide Educator)**



## Training Objectives

- Teachers will learn strategies and resources to engage multiple groups:
  - **Pre-K & K**
  - **1st-5th**
  - **M.S.**
  - **H.S.**
  - **Parents / Family**
  - **OSY**
- Teachers will collaborate between projects to share amazing strategies!



## Category Breakdown



- Reflect on what we know (~2 mins)
- General tips / suggestions (~7 mins)
- Group share-out (~3 mins)





## “Susana Says”



- Epaules
- Coude
- Tete
- Genoux
- Pieds





## Who is this guy?



- 3rd Grade Dual Language Teacher - Urbana (2013-2018)
  - Parkland's MEP Parent Educator (2 summers)
- Spanish Literacy Promoter (Peace Corps - DR) (2019-'20)
- Early Spanish Literacy Coach (Reading in Motion) (2020-'21)
- Middle School ESL Teacher (push-in/pull-out) (2021-'23)
  - Adult ESL night class (2021-'23)
- Statewide Migrant Educator (current!)



## Your turn!



- Name / project / role
- Experience / educational studies (if applicable!)
- Favorite place to visit in world that you've never been to ...!



## Quick Reflection



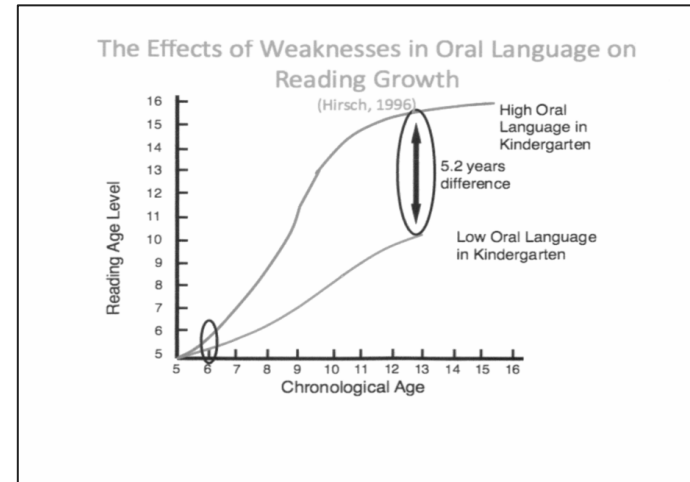
- What activities have you done / seen to engage **Pre-K & K** students?
- What materials were used?



# Pre-K & Kindergarten



- Oral Language Development (#1)
- Play (spatial awareness / creativity)
- Movement (TPR)
- Songs (repetition)
- Story elements
- Picture walks
- Read-alouds
- World Reader / Unite for Literacy





# Read-aloud Tips



- Great for younger students / or all! :-)
- Use high-interest books / student choice
- Preview Vocabulary
- Great for text conversations & predictions
- Helpful for writing / drawing prompts
- Lector can change up voice
- Easy way to include CLRI
- Parent engagement
- Narrated books

### Parents, it's up to you!

The first few years of life are critical in your child's brain development. Make the most of this window. If you wait, it's too late.

- Your baby's brain is making literally trillions of connections during the first few years, the fastest it will ever grow.
- Children are rapidly learning language. They often quadruple the number of words they know between ages 1-2.
- Babies learn best through interactions. There is no substitute for YOU.

Babies are born with about 100 billion neurons; by age 3 there will be about 1,000 trillion connections between them.

#### The stakes could not be higher

**Dodge the word gap**  
Some children will hear 30 million fewer words than their peers before age 4. Studies have shown the number of words a child knows when entering kindergarten is predictive of future learning success. (Hart and Risley, 2003)

State	Percentage
KY	51%
MN	27%
MS	41%
FL	28%

**Avoid the slippery slope**  
A child not reading at grade level by the end of first grade has an 88% chance of not reading at grade level by the end of fourth grade. (Those not reading proficiently by third grade are four times more likely to drop out of school.)

**Get ready to learn**  
Too many children in the U.S. are not prepared to learn when they enter kindergarten. Studies show that those who fall behind are likely to stay that way. (Kendall.com | Florida's Learning | Education.com | Kidsbooks.com | GreatStart.edu | Brookfield and Phillips, 2003 | Carnegie Foundation 1991 | Jan 1998 | Anne E. Casey Foundation, 2012)

**Light up your child's brain!**

Read aloud 15 MINUTES every day from birth to:

- Grow vocabulary and knowledge
- Bond and provide enriching engagement
- Foster a love of books and learning

You are your child's first and most important teacher. Read Aloud every day, from birth, for at least 15 MINUTES and light up your child's brain.

**If you wait, it's too late.**

**Read Aloud 15 MINUTES**  
Every child. Every parent. Every day.

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## Quick Reflection

- What activities have you done / seen to engage **1st-5th grade** students?
- What materials were used?



## Elementary (1st - 5th)



- Play / movement still important for engagement!
- Repetition and practice (math / literacy)
- Writing prompts / diaries
- Cards (great for math games!)
- Positive Reinforcement
- Accessible - limit frustration
- Achievery and NIU STEAM





## Quick Reflection



- What activities have you done / seen to engage **M.S.** students?
- What materials were used?



## Middle School (6-8th)



- Student discussion / opinion writing
- Capitalize on student interest
- Competition (if appropriate)
- Kinetic / TPR
- Trash ball game (review game)
- Achievery / STEAM / Code.org





## Quick Reflection



- What activities have you done / seen to engage **H.S.** students?
- What materials were used?



# High School Students

- Lean on student interest (SSSP)
- Highlight creativity / individuality
- Songs (for limited English)
- Beardstown podcast - Mrs. Skinner
- Credit recovery
- Future plans / goal setting
- [College & Career Awareness Toolkit](#)





## Quick Reflection



- What activities have you done / seen to engage **parents / families**?
- What materials were used?



## Parents / Family



- Modeling - home visits & parent nights
- Build confidence - easy wins (ex: Oral L.D.)
- Comprehension bookmarks
- [i2MPACT](#) - plethora of academic resources
- [Very Well Mind](#)





## Quick Reflection



- What activities have you done / seen to engage **OSY** students?
- What materials were used?



## OSY



- Often tough population (moving / work schedule / etc.)
- English can be easy sell!
- OSY success videos - motivation
- Trust - can be hard to gain
- We need to accommodate their schedule
- What are their goals?
- Goal setting book (English / Spanish)
- Career awareness toolkit
- Pathways for HSED





# Goal Setting

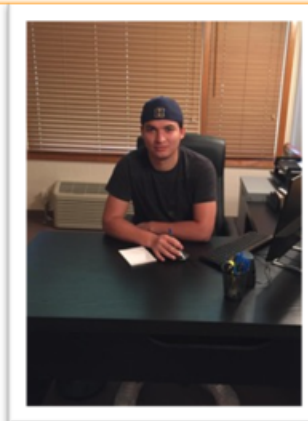
## WHY IT MATTERS



***“He came from a 4th grade education background at age 16 and was able to graduate high school at 21 years old. He was the first in his family to graduate.”***



***“She graduated and received her high school diploma... I was at her graduation ceremony and I remembered when she was just a name on a long list of students.”***



***“He said, ‘I heard about the OSY program which has changed my life and the way I think. It’s amazing how I could see my dreams becoming a reality.’”***



## Contact Information

- Greg Ballweg - Statewide Educator
  - 630-943-5292
  - [gballweg@niu.edu](mailto:gballweg@niu.edu)
- Magaly Avila Rodriguez - Director
  - 956-458-8470
  - [mavilarodriguez@niu.edu](mailto:mavilarodriguez@niu.edu)
- Will share presentation via email!



Presentation Link  
in QR CODE!