

Teaching Tips

for Level Pre-A

LEVEL PRE-A ORAL LANGUAGE FOCUS TEACHING TIPS

- Support children to speak in longer sentences. Record how many words they usually use in a spoken sentence. Your goal is to have students add another word or two to a sentence by the end of a lesson. Ask questions to help children include more words: *What else happened? How did you feel? Say it again and tell more.*
- Have children talk about familiar books and situations. This will build their confidence and skill. Have them retell stories by using the pictures.
- Use pictures about things kids know as a catalyst for their talk, too.

LEVEL PRE-A PRINT AWARENESS FOCUS TEACHING TIPS

- Teach children to read and write their first name with a capital letter. Have them write standing beside a large dry erase board to write using large muscles first.
- Use an alphabet arc to help children organize letters and understand their relationship to each other.
- Have kids trace or write using sandpaper letters, sand, shaving cream, hair gel packets, or big paintbrushes and water outdoors.
- Ask students to point to a letter, a word, a picture, a period, and so on. When they point to words and pretend to read familiar read-aloud books, they are showing an understanding that print carries a message.

LEVEL PRE-A HIGH-FREQUENCY WORD FOCUS TEACHING TIPS

- Teach children that *A* and *I* are letters and words. Have them find these in books and on the walls and identify them as letters or words. Expose children to a few other high-utility words, such as *can, go, to, the, like*.
- Do shared reading of predictable text on charts or books at Level A that include these words.
- Make predictable books or charts with print students know (*I go to _____.* *We like to play with _____*.) Include student names and photos.