

Supporting Language Development in Young Children

Levine, D., Pace, A., Luo, R., Hirsh-Pasek, K., Golinkoff, R. M., de Villiers, J., ... & Wilson, M. S. (2020). Evaluating socioeconomic gaps in preschoolers' vocabulary, syntax and language process skills with the Quick Interactive Language Screener (QUILS). *Early Childhood Research Quarterly*, 50, 114-128.

Substantial income gaps may be present in preschoolers' vocabulary, syntax, and language processing skills as early as age 3.

This study provides tips for how teachers and caregivers can support language development in all children and showed that the Quick Interactive Language Screener (QUILS) can help track language growth.

Assess Appropriately

Learning new words is just one part of language development. Use tools that measure vocabulary as well as syntax and language processing, such as the QUILS.

Begin Early

Gaps in language abilities are present by age 3. It is never too early to start supporting language development in children!

Create Conversation

Engage in high quality back-and-forth interactions with children. Try to use various types of words and sentence patterns to expand on what they say.

Discuss Daily

Reading books together, asking engaging questions, and sparking conversation about the story are all great ways to support language skills.