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New Mexico
Public Schools
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Authority

Complimentary Professional Development for Educators Technical Assistance Program

LIVE VIRTUAL COMPLIMENTARY PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP VIA ZOOM

Early Childhood Language-Based Strategies

Grounded in the Science of Reading

Wednesday, October 21, 2027

8:30 - 11:30 AM or 12:00 - 3:00 PM

Presented by Shelene Harrelson, M.A. ECE

Early Childhood TAP Consultant

Building Language, Speech Sounds & Early Literacy Through Everyday Classroom Practice

Join us for an engaging, hands-on professional development designed specifically for **early childhood educators and support staff**. This session will explore practical language-based strategies grounded in the **Science of Reading** that strengthen the foundational skills young children need for communication, reading, and writing.

Participants will learn classroom strategies that intentionally support **speech-sound development, oral language, phonological awareness, vocabulary, and early literacy skills**. Strengthening these foundational skills through high-quality instruction and intervention may help address developmental needs early and provide valuable information before considering a referral for speech and language services. Participants will leave with **practical strategies and hands-on activities that can be implemented immediately** within early childhood classrooms to strengthen children's communication and literacy foundations.

Participants will explore:

- **Sounds & Mouth Placement** — Helping children hear, see, and feel how sounds are produced through intentional modeling of mouth, tongue, and lip placement.
- **The Phonological Staircase** — Understanding the developmental progression from listening and playing with larger units of sound to rhyming, syllables, onset-rime, and phonemic awareness.
- **Hands-On Literacy Activities** — Engaging activities that integrate language, sound awareness, early reading,
- **Building Powerful Vocabulary** — Moving beyond basic words by intentionally teaching **Tier 2 vocabulary** that children can use across stories, conversations, and learning experiences.
- **Storybooks as Language Tools** — Using high-quality children's literature to intentionally develop vocabulary, comprehension, oral language, and background knowledge.
- **Anchoring Questions to Text** — Learning how to plan

This training is applicable to General Education, Special Education, and other interested staff.

The sessions provide the same information. A Survey will be posted in the zoom chat at the end of the presentation. You must complete the survey to receive a Certificate of Completion.

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