

# First Level Language (KINDERSAY)

Pre-K through 1<sup>st</sup> grade



- *Provides a continuum of learning and management system that insure the language-concept development of participating children.*
- *Organization of curriculum facilitates use of program specialists, paraprofessionals and volunteers in the classroom.*

## Results



- *Pretest-posttest scores over a period of seven years revealed that children exposed to First Level Language instruction consistently achieved large increases in test scores that were statistically significant. In contrast, children in comparison groups who did not receive First Level Language instruction evidenced average test score losses or only small gains.*

## The Program

First Level Language (KINDERSAY) is a program for young children that is designed to facilitate oral language acquisition and an understanding of the basic language concepts and relationships necessary to succeed in the more complex tasks of reading and math. This is accomplished through the use of a curriculum based on knowledge of child development and cognitive growth. Its 72 learning objectives and the experiences used to reach them follow a hierarchy which begins with simple vocabulary development and listening skills and proceeds to higher level skills where the children demonstrate comprehension of basic concepts and relationships.

A curriculum-based assessment that is part of the program is used to determine the various developmental levels of the students. Based on the results of this, teachers begin presenting experiences to students in developmental sequence. Understanding takes place through assimilation and the use of concrete objects.

Objectives are organized around miniature lesson plans, complete with materials, procedure, and evaluation. Instruction is provided in small groups of individuals for periods of approximately 20 minutes each day. The program, which helps children understand the basic language concepts through interactive experiences with concrete materials and game-type activities, can be used as part of any total language program for young children and teaches skills that are widely transferable.

The program has been widely replicated in urban, suburban, and rural settings throughout the State and nationwide.

## Professional Development

Training is conducted in keeping with district/school needs and is designed to give teachers a complete orientation to the program and to provide experience in its use. One full day is recommended. Paraprofessionals and program specialists who may assist with the program are encouraged to participate in the training. Follow-up/technical assistance is available in the form of site visits, conference calls, and videos. Program staff can be reached at anytime at the toll-free number (800-444-5729).

## Costs & Funding Options

One curriculum and materials kit is required per classroom at a cost of \$225 per kit. Materials are non-consumable. Training workshops, including training materials for all participants and presenter's honorarium, cost \$500 per day. Assistance to replicators in securing funds is also provided.

## Learning Standards

**English Language Arts:** 1) read, write, listen, and speak for information and understanding; 4) read, write, listen, and speak for social interaction.

## Contact

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