Using Apps to Foster Language and Literacy in the Early Years

iPad Pilot Project Training Session

July 10, 2014   6-9pm
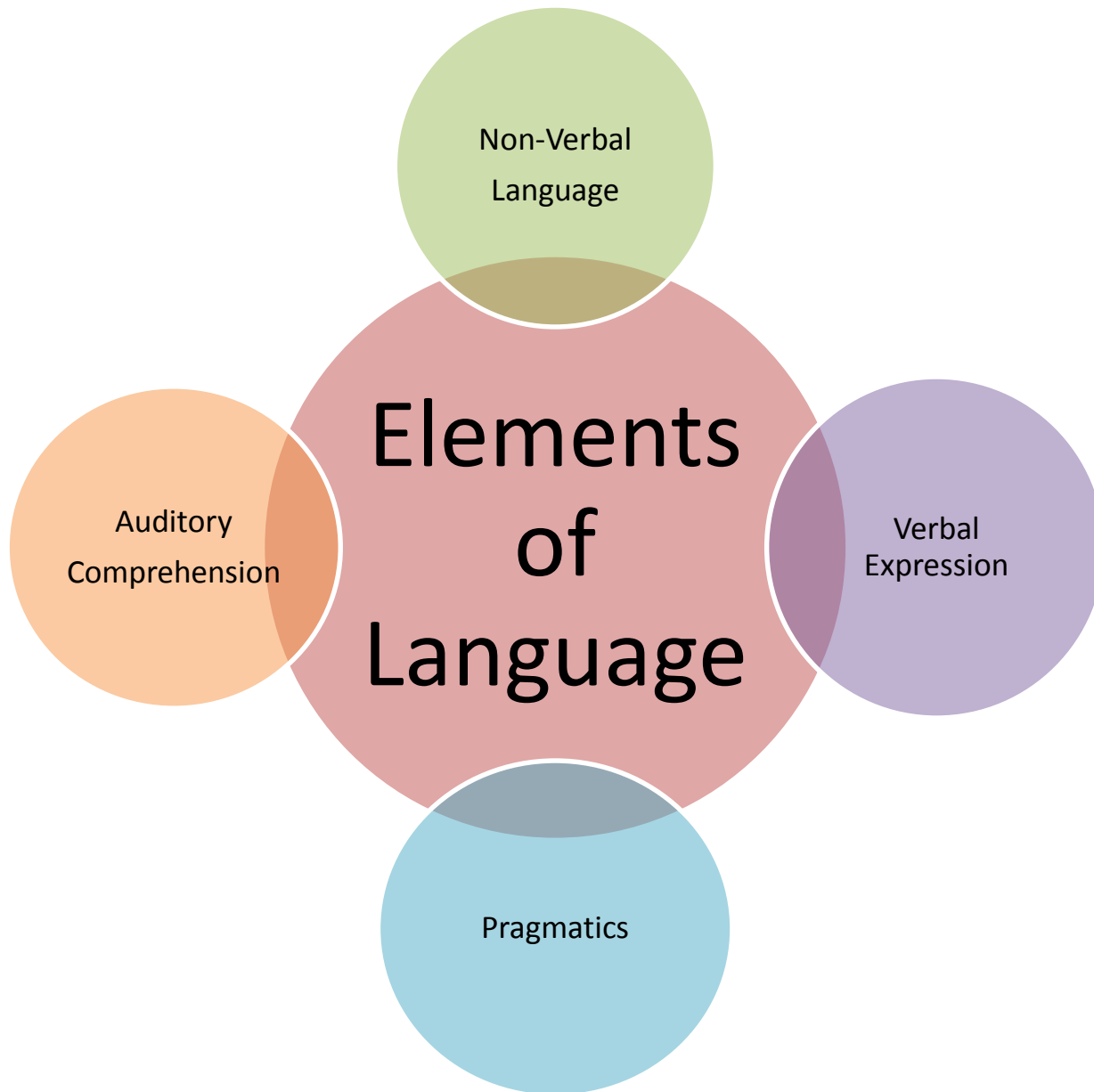
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Tell me about.....

- Your best experience so far with the iPad in the classroom
- Your classroom makeup
- Your learning preferences
- Your favourite app so far

Objectives

- Review language expectations for children in the classroom

- View the potential for apps to improve communication and language in the classroom

- Look at emergent literacy expectations for toddlers and preschoolers

- Identify apps that target the domains of early literacy

Language Learning in the Classroom

What's typical for a toddler?

- Eye contact
- Turn Taking
- Initiating Communication
- Play
- Following Commands
- Responding to questions
- Vocabulary
- Requesting
- Commenting
- Directing
- Sharing Information

Language Learning in the Classroom

What's typical for a preschooler?

- Turn Taking
- Topic Maintenance
- Play
- Following Commands
- Responding to questions
- Vocabulary
- Grammatical Complexity
- Requesting
- Commenting
- Directing
- Sharing Information

iPads in the classroom provide an opportunity to:

- Foster creativity
- Collaborate in Learning
- Support/Provoke Inquiry

Let's think about the ways in which the integration of technology in the classroom can also support language and early literacy....
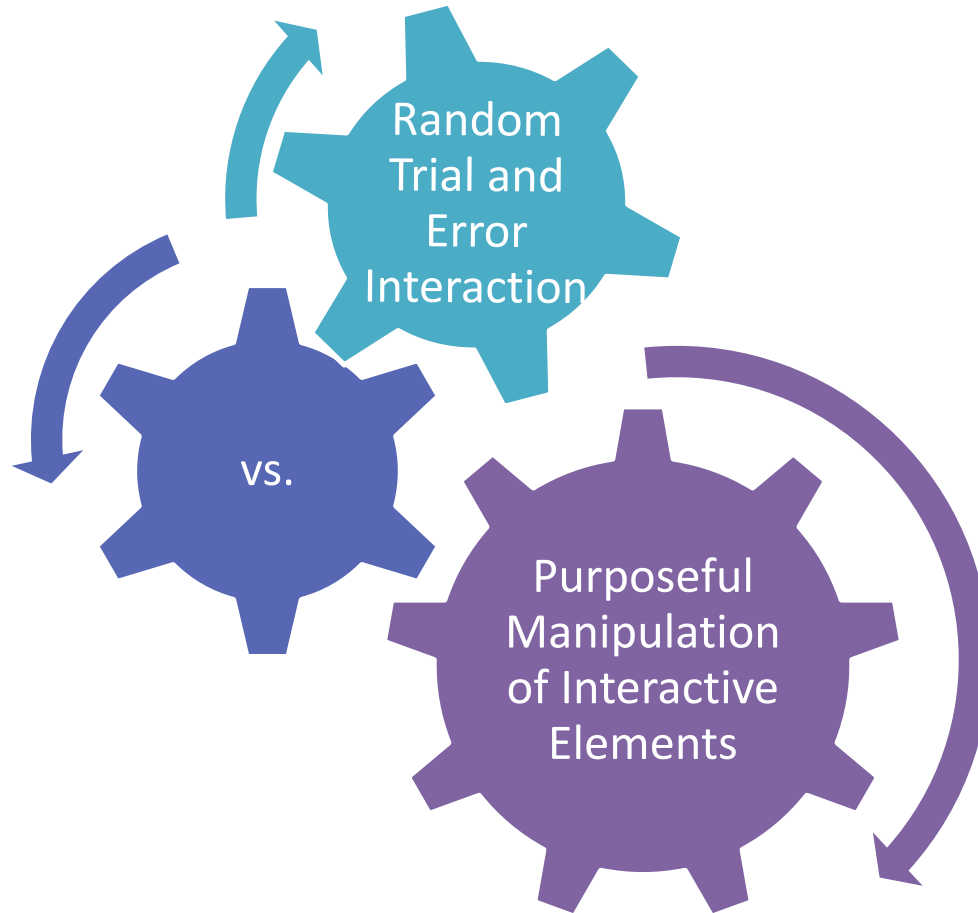
What do you hear?

- As the children interact around the iPad what kind of language do you hear?
  - From the children?
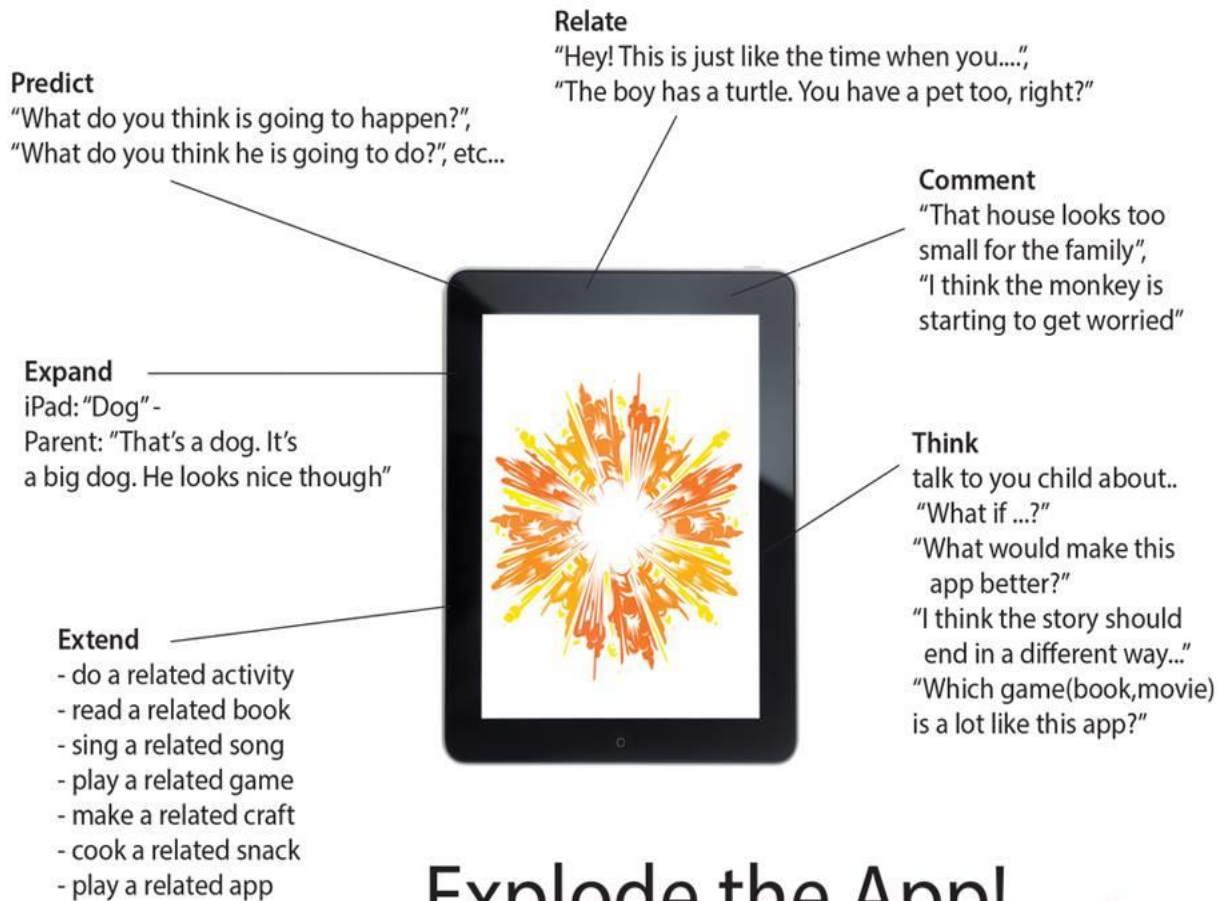 - From yourselves as teachers?
  - From the app itself?

Enhance Comprehension

Start a conversation with an open question or comment

- I wonder if….
- Tell me….
- Would you…
- Have you ever….
- This reminds me of….

Predict
"What do you think is going to happen?",
"What do you think he is going to do?", etc...

Relate
"Hey! This is just like the time when you....",
"The boy has a turtle. You have a pet too, right?"

Comment
"That house looks too
small for the family",
"I think the monkey is
starting to get worried"

Expand
iPad: "Dog" -
Parent: "That's a dog. It's
a big dog. He looks nice though"

Think
talk to you child about..
"What if ...?"
"What would make this
app better?"
"I think the story should
end in a different way..."
"Which game(book,movie)
is a lot like this app?"

Extend
- do a related activity
- read a related book
- sing a related song
- play a related game
- make a related craft
- cook a related snack
- play a related app

Explode the App!

http://www.trollinabowlapps.com

Building language with apps

- Knowing the content of the app allows us to be language models, extend language and continue conversations
- Rich language environments are key to building vocabulary and oral language

Let's get to know….

Tozzle HD

Let's try a few more…

- Think about the language level of the children in your classroom

- Select vocabulary to model, highlight and extend

- How could you build conversation or turns?

- How might you relate this app to another app or activity in the classroom?

Primary Domains of Early Literacy

Falconer, L. (November/December 2010) "Encouraging preschoolers' early
writing efforts. Take another look at that scribble." Exchange.

Let's go back to each classroom

What is typical for toddlers?

Preschoolers?

Supporting Early Literacy with Apps

- ✓ Phonological Awareness
  - ✓ Rhyming, segmenting, blending, phonemic awareness
- ✓ Alphabet Knowledge and Print Awareness
- ✓ Vocabulary and Oral Language
- ✓ Listening Comprehension
- ✓ Written Language
- ✓ Reading Comprehension

Identifying literacy domains within the App?

Let's keep looking....

It doesn't end here

With the variety of apps purchased for the project the opportunities to introduce novel vocabulary, tell stories, discover, create and learn are endless.

- Be a keen observer and listen to the cues children give to communicate their findings
- Further their inquiry with probing questions and comments
- Extend conversations to nurture the development of oral language
- Summarize discoveries in print or photo form to share with others

Any questions?