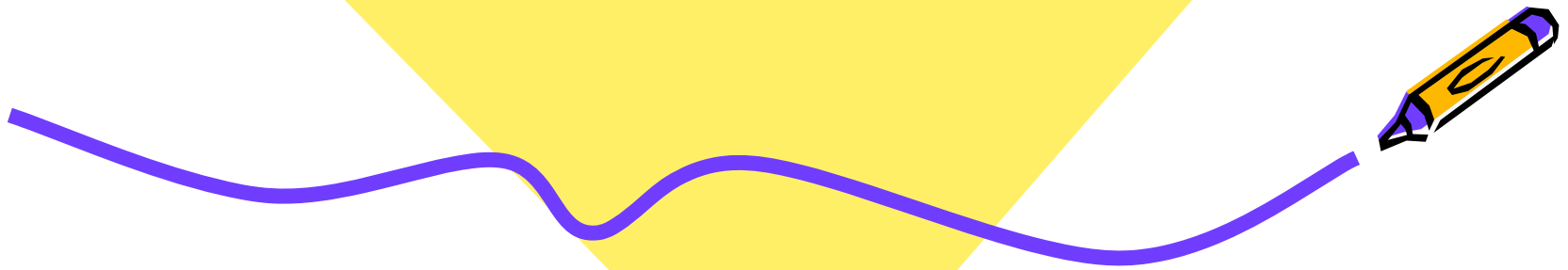




Second Language Learners and Language Development



How long does it take to learn a second language?



- According to research: 5 to 7 years
- Factors affecting language learning:
 - Emotional variables
 - Self-esteem
 - Motivation
 - Attitudes
 - Age
 - Parents can foster a spirit of mutual respect, high expectations, and cooperative learning.





How long does it take to learn a second language?



- Basic Interpersonal Communication Skills
 - 2 to 3 years
 - Ability to converse and understand every day discussions
- Cognitive Academic Language Proficiency
 - 5 to 7 years
 - Ability to read, write, speak, and listen at an academic level





Stages of second language acquisition

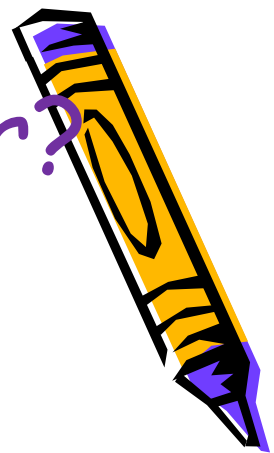


- Preproduction/Comprehension Stage
- Early Production
- Speech Emergence
- Intermediate Fluency
- Advanced Fluency

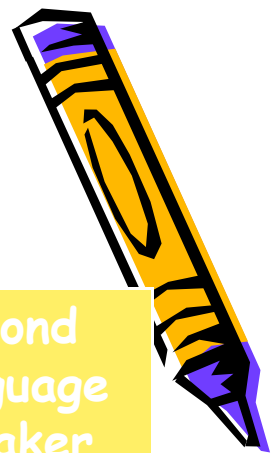


What Literacy Skills Transfer?

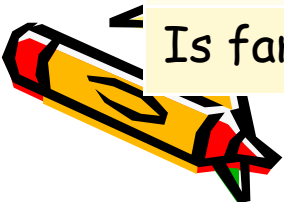
- Directionality
- Sequencing
- Ability to distinguish shapes and sounds
- Knowledge that written symbols correspond to sounds and can be decoded in order and direction
- Activation of semantic and syntactic knowledge
- Knowledge of text structure
- Learning to use cues to predict meaning
- Awareness of the variety of purposes for reading and writing
- Confidence in oneself as a reader and writer



First and second language learners



Characteristics	Primary language speaker	Second language speaker
Constructs language from prior conceptual knowledge	x	x
Uses cognitive strategies	x	x
Makes developmental errors	x	x
Experiences a silent period	x	x
Develops language in predictable stages	x	x
Generally has a greater knowledge of the world		x
Generally can learn and apply rules more easily		x
Has primary language as a resource		x
Is familiar with more than one culture		x



Will my child get confused if we speak one language at home and he learns a different one at school?



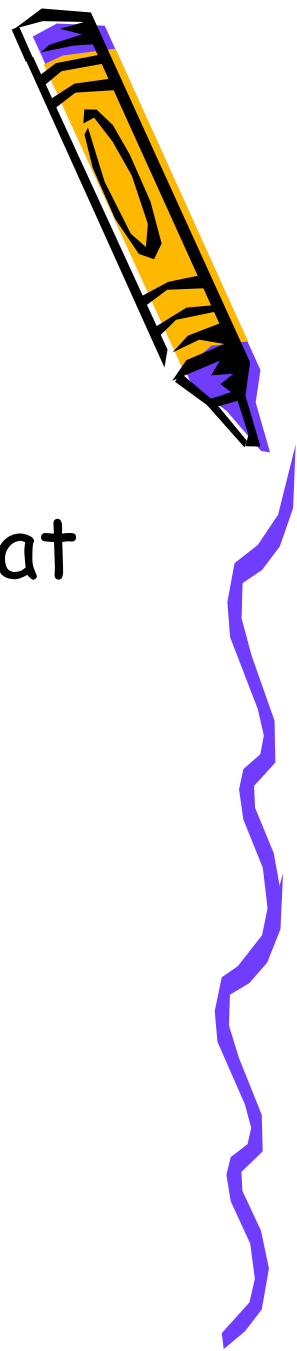
- No, young children have the potential of learning more than one language



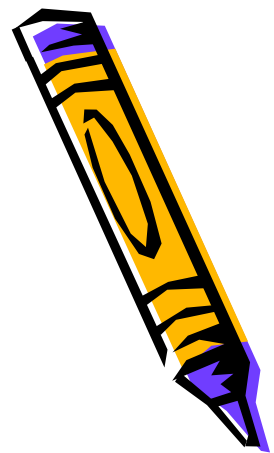
Learning a second language requires time, persistence, and creativity

- Parents can help by finding or creating activities to help learn that new language:
 - Watching movies
 - Reading books
 - Talking with friends
 - Etc.

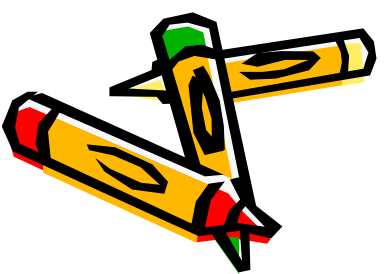
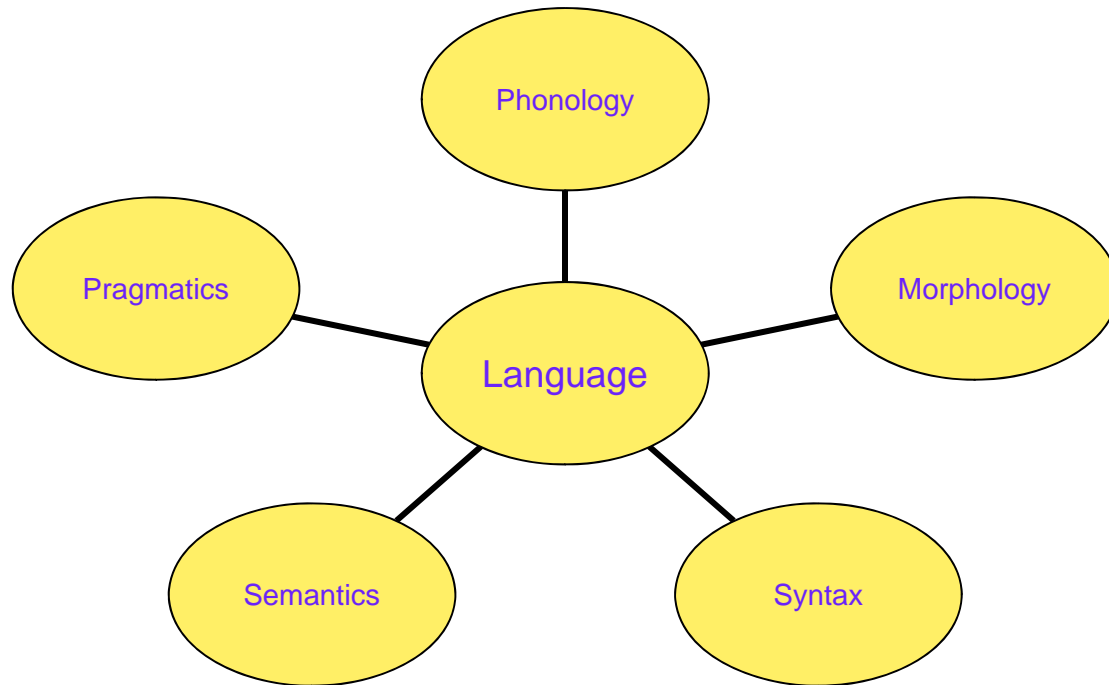
(See handout for other ideas)



Learning a second
language is not an
easy task



The Five Components of Language

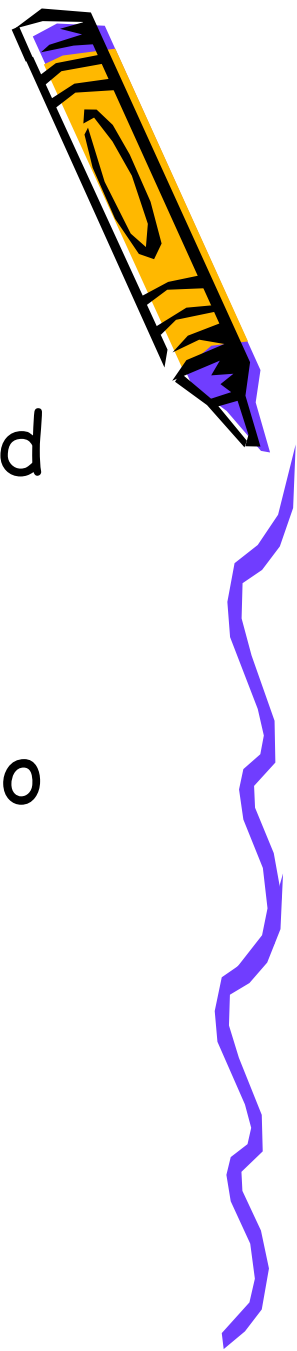


Pedagogical factors affecting language development

- Acquisition v. Learning
 - Teaching the rules of grammar does not facilitate acquisition.
 - Acquisition is unconscious; learning is conscious.
 - Children need time (silent period) to internalize language.
- Natural Order
 - Certain rules of language tend to be acquired before others.
 - This natural order is best acquired in normal conversation rather than by direct grammar instruction.
- Monitor
 - Acquisition is responsible for fluency
 - Learning serves to develop a *Monitor* (editor) to detect errors.
 - Explicit correction rarely changes students' writing or speaking behavior.
- Input
 - Comprehensible input
 - We acquire language when we understand the message.
 - Making instruction relevant and meaningful, using frequent comprehension checks, and using cooperative learning activities help.
 - Exposure to language helps to learn the language.



Frequently asked questions



- Is it okay to read books to my child in my native language?
- If I only read to my child in my native language will he ever learn to read in the other language?
- Other questions?

