



Beyond Words – Program 1

*Review by Nancy S. Maldonado and Mariann Pezzella Winick. Reprinted by permission from the Films/Videos/DVDs column in Annual Theme 2003 issue of **Childhood Education**.*

This film is particularly interesting in terms of its relevancy to all early childhood programs. It describes a technique, known as “highlighting,” in which language opportunities are expanded through activity—a technique that early childhood personnel will recognize. In effect, this video is a refreshing, revitalizing tonic, as it will bolster viewers’ enthusiasm to make language an important part of the day in various settings. The video visits a Head Start classroom, a preschool, and nurseries with ethnically diverse groupings. The children all are engaged in a range of activities. Through highlighting, which maximizes conversation through individual and group contact, language flows in a natural way, leading to meaningful engagements. The role of the adult is viewed as critical in terms of extending and enriching language opportunities for children. The camera work and the soundtrack are especially good. The accompanying activity guide, which includes a Language Progression Chart for children ages 2-5, is particularly useful in helping to set individual and group language goals.

Extensions: This video can be an excellent resource for a professional development session to encourage teachers to share what they are doing and compare their settings and practices. Teachers also can observe, document, discuss, and analyze this technique and validate their own language enrichment methods. Comparative charts can be developed that help foster more analytic and objective self-study. The Language Progression Bar Chart could be used with any preschool group and provides materials for classroom extension consideration.

Maldonado, N.S., & Winick, M.P. (2003). The more we teach, the more we want to learn (video review of “Adventures in Language, Program 1: Beyond Words”). *Childhood Education*, 79, 335.



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22335 SW Mandan Drive, Tualatin, OR 97062