



Brief on the *Emerging Language and Literacy Curriculum*

(ELLC): Fidelity and Adaptation Ornes, J., Patterson, S., McMillan, D., Thomas, J. &

Trumbower, E. (2017). *The Emerging Language and Literacy Curriculum, Second Edition*. Dynamic Resources, Indiana, PA, <http://dynamic-resources.org/>

Emerging Language and Literacy Curriculum (ELLC)

When selecting an early childhood curriculum for implementation in a private or public preschool program, administrators and teachers address numerous factors. Some factors among many are the following examples: the research outcomes for the children; whether the curriculum matches the state standards for early learning; the framework and content of the curriculum; and, the match of the philosophical position of teachers and curriculum. Regardless of the curriculum selected, the curricular research outcomes will not be achieved without Fidelity Of Implementation (FOI). The focus of this Brief is FOI for the ELLC. Additional information is available in ELLC Book A, page 58, and a FOI checklist is provided in Book A, page 199.

Fidelity: Implementing a program or intervention exactly as described is referred to as fidelity of implementation (FOI). Children tend to make more gains when teachers faithfully implement the teaching strategies or curriculum as designed. (Hamre, BK, et al. (2010). Implementation fidelity of MyTeachingPartner literacy and language activities: Association with preschoolers' language growth, *EARLY CHILDHOOD RESEARCH QUARTERLY*, 25, 329-3347.)

Research Shows: When programs implemented with fidelity are compared to programs not implemented with fidelity, the difference in effectiveness is profound. Those implemented with fidelity yield average effect sizes that are two to three times higher. Durlak, J. A., & DuPre, E. P. (2008). Implementation matters: A review of research on the influence of implementation on program outcomes and the factors affecting implementation. *American Journal of Community Psychology*, 41, 327–350.

FOI may be maintained with adaptations but not with curricular modifications.

Adaptation: Refers to accommodations or adjustments so that all children can benefit from the curriculum.

Modification: Refers to a change in the curriculum. It refers to remaking, remodeling, revamping or reworking of the curriculum.

If the ELLC is modified, it cannot be implemented with fidelity. Modification of the ELLC is discouraged. However, if the curriculum is adapted, fidelity can be maintained, and there are instances when an adaptation will be of service to a particular child or group of children in the preschool classroom.

Adaptation Examples: (in fidelity)

- Reducing group size
- Activity simplification
- Using visual aids, enlarged text
- Reduce time for any key component to fit needs of children
- Language adjustments
- Use of adaptive devices

Modification Examples: (not in fidelity)

- Eliminating one or more key components (shared storybook reading, ELLC circle time, learning centers, small phonological awareness groups)
- Reduce number of key components implemented during a unit (e.g., from daily shared storybook to 2 readings a week)
- Choosing to reduce units to less than 2 weeks
- Eliminating or reducing content area activities (e.g., math)

Companion Briefs:

- The Emerging Language and Literacy Curriculum
- The ELLC and Dual Language Learners
- The ELLC and Children with Disabilities
- The ELLC and Children Who Are Typically Developing or Children At-Risk
- The ELLC and Children With Low-Incidence Disorders

Resources: Intervention Technical Assistance (1995) Adapting Activities and Materials for Young Children With Disabilities. <https://www.utoledo.edu/education/grants/direct/pdf/Module%204/R%20AdaptingActivitiesand%20materials.pdf>

Stewart, Alison (2013). Adapting Activities for All Learners. *Special Needs Inclusion Project, San Francisco, CA*. <https://www.healthiersf.org/excelafterschool/Resources/documents/Alison%20Stewart%20Adapting%20Activities%20for%20All%20Learners.pdf>

National Center on Early Childhood Development, Teaching, and Learning. <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/1025-curriculum-fidelity-handout.pdf>