

## Ideas and Strategies for Incorporating *Foundations*<sup>1</sup> in Language and Literacy

**USE *FOUNDATIONS* AS THE BASIS FOR A BOOK INVENTORY.** Students often don't realize the potential for connecting each story to other domains of development. To build this capacity, ask students to select three commonly used children's books, one for infants and toddlers, one for 3-4 year olds and one for 5 year olds. Then ask students to identify ways in which they could extend the story or concepts in each book to support development in each domain of *Foundations*. To provide students with good examples of extensions, use resources from the collection of Book Nooks at <http://csefel.vanderbilt.edu/resources/strategies.html#booknook>

**USE *FOUNDATIONS* TO SUPPORT COMMUNICATION DEVELOPMENT.** North Carolina's *Foundations* identify seven goals related to what children need to know and be able to do to use language effectively:

1. Understand communication from others
2. Participate in conversations with peers and adults in one-on-one, small, or larger group interactions
3. Ask and answer questions in order to seek help, get information, or clarify something that is not understood
4. Speak audibly and express thoughts, feelings, and ideas clearly
5. Describe people, places, things, and events
6. Use most grammatical constructions of their home language well
7. Respond to and use a growing vocabulary

Each of these is a goal that could be thoughtfully integrated within the ongoing daily schedule of an early childhood program. Consider the following assignment:

- Ask students to spend time in an early childhood program learning the daily routines.
- Using *Foundations*, ask students to identify 3 developmentally appropriate strategies for addressing each of the seven goals within the daily routines of the classroom.
- In addition, ask students to identify variations to the strategies that would support children who
  - Are dual language learners
  - Have speech and/or language delays
  - Have delays that result from lack of prior exposure or experience.

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<sup>1</sup> *Foundations* is the North Carolina resource "that describes children's development and learning from birth to age five." Please adjust the activities and assignments to incorporate the use of your state's early learning guidelines/standards. Retrieved from [http://ncchildcare.nc.gov/pdf\\_forms/NC\\_foundations.pdf](http://ncchildcare.nc.gov/pdf_forms/NC_foundations.pdf) (page v).