Instructional Sequence for Vocabulary Instruction

Depth Chart: Vocabulary

Examples of Probes for Vocabulary Learning

Instructional Sequence

1. Choose vocabulary to explicitly instruct from narrative or expository text or from content areas.
2. Contextualize the word (introduce word in context of reading or instruction). "John is a very curious boy." Or, "In our story, John is a very curious boy."
3. Explain the word in a student-friendly manner. (e.g. Curious means you are really interested in knowing something. Curious describes someone who is eager to find out answers and explore and learn.)[www.vocabulary.com/dictionary]
4. Have the children repeat the word as this assists in forging a phonological memory and meaning of the word. (Say "curious" with me 3 times)
5. Give examples (and non-examples) in several contexts in addition to those in the story or instruction (e.g. I am curious about whether our plants will grow without sunlight.)
6. Have children provide their own examples (and non-examples) of the word and its use or interact with teacher examples. (What is something you might be curious about?)
7. Have the children say the word again.
8. Have the children fill in a cloze sentence or respond to a question that elicits the word. (Jane really wants to know where the trapdoor leads. You could say that Jane is _____.")

General:

- Choose 3-5 words per reading or instructional plan depending on grade level and type of reading or instruction.
- Choral repetitions of the word and responses to cloze sentences and other prompts are good for engagement of all students.
- Summarize by reviewing all words and their use in meaningful activities following the reading/instruction. (e.g. We studied 3 words in this reading: curious, regret, and remind.)

Adapted from: Beck, I.L., McKeown, M.G, and Kucan, L. (2013) *Bringing words to life: Robust vocabulary instruction, 2nd Ed*. New York: Guilford Press.

Depth Chart: Vocabulary

Word	Multiple choice	Fill in blank	Verbal description	Use in sentence	*Bonus: Use of inflections and/or derivations, e.g.*
curious					curiously
regret					regretful
remind					reminded

Examples of Probes for Vocabulary Learning

Multiple Choice:

If any of the things I say might be examples of someone being curious, say "curious." If not, show the thumbs down sign.

- Taking a nap
- Starting a science project
- Shaking the gift box
- Trying a new food
- Walking up the stairs

Fill in Blank or Finish the Sentence:

If Susan peeks behind the door to see who is visiting, you could say she is _____.

In the story, John was curious because….

Verbal Description:

What does "curious" mean?

Use in sentence

Questions:

Does "curious" mean that I am eager to find out about something or that I am sure about something?

Does "regret" mean to be sorry or to be excited?

Yes/No

Do you think you would regret starting an argument with your best friend?

Do you think you would regret getting exactly what you wanted for your birthday?

Word Association:

Which word does "sorry" make you think of?

Which word does "interested" make you think of?