

How the GrapeSEED Design Correlates with WIDA Standards

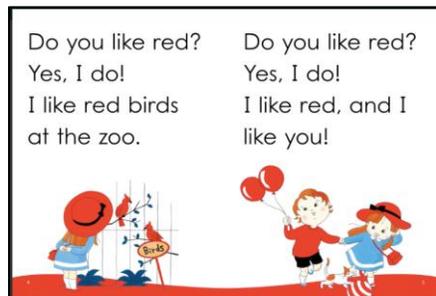
The GrapeSEED curriculum provides the oral language foundation for English Language Learners to become successful listeners and speakers of English as well as beginning readers and writers.

The most promising instructional practices for language-minority students bear out this point: Literacy programs that provide instructional support of oral language development in English, aligned with high-quality literacy instruction are the most successful (August & Shanahan, 2006).

Students begin GrapeSEED by learning single words, set phrases, and chunks of memorized oral language and then move on to phrases and short oral sentences. As instruction continues, cognitive skills of letter-sound awareness, rapid naming of words, and phonological memory are developed.



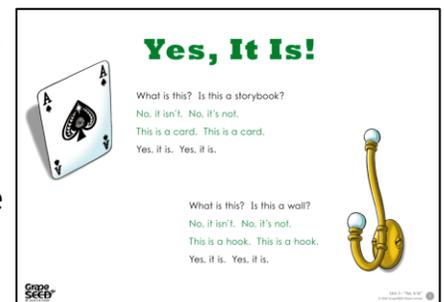
Language demands can be organized at three levels: words, sentence, and discourse (Gottlieb, Katz, & Ernst-Slavit, 2009; Bailey & Huang, 2011).



Students in GrapeSEED increase their vocabulary through interactions with GrapeSEED Big Books, Poems, Songs, Stories, Action Activities, Chants, and Story Dictionaries. They begin with high frequency vocabulary, moving to additional vocabulary going beyond highly familiar words, then into content area vocabulary and beyond.

Meaning-making and language production involves multiple modes (Kress & van Leeuwen, 2001; Cope and Kalantzis, 2000).

Students in GrapeSEED quickly gain oral language control starting with comprehensible memorized language structures. As they increase in confidence, students begin to take part in simple but fluent discourse. Language control is also supported by GrapeSEED components that build foundational skills to reinforce phonological spoken and written sounds in the English language, leading to English reading comprehension and writing.



Communicative competence is a learner's ability to use language to communicate appropriately in different situations (Hymes, 1966).

How Will GrapeSEED Impact Your Students' WIDA ACCESS Results?



WIDA Access is a state level assessment of student progress that reports on seven individual scores: Listening, Speaking, Oral Language, Reading, Writing, Literacy, & Overall Composite. To build a strong oral language foundation, the GrapeSEED curriculum correlates with the WIDA standards allowing teachers to simply follow the progression of learning already built into the lesson plans to promote growth amongst their students.

WIDA ACCESS's Oral Language section is comprised of 50% Listening and 50% Speaking skills. With GrapeSEED, your students will learn to listen to peers, teachers, and others as they also gain practice speaking English in the classroom, on the playground, and in their community. Through the integration of systematically introduced and reviewed language, GrapeSEED fosters language acquisition thereby allowing students to feel confident as they listen and speak during assessments such as WIDA ACCESS.

WIDA's Overall Composite section is comprised of 35% Reading, 35% Writing, 15% Listening, and 15% Speaking skills. While the GrapeSEED program begins by devoting more time to listening and speaking skills, it also streamlines the reading readiness and learning to read processes to maximize learning time. With GrapeSEED, the study of Language Arts begins with simple phonograms and phonemes and continues through word assembly and decoding, reading, writing, and dictation. As students progress through the curriculum, Shared Reading Big Books and Poems, as well as Writers give students opportunities to practice skills necessary for reading and writing proficiency. As a result, students' feelings of success and self-reliance greatly increase as they complete assessments such as WIDA ACCESS due to GrapeSEED's intentional integration of reading and writing skills taught in combination with listening and speaking skills.

GrapeSEED fosters English oral language development, within a safe environment, and under the guidance of a specially trained teacher. GrapeSEED helps lay the building blocks for children to become literate in English in an ongoing and intensive effort to develop listening and speaking proficiency. Further, GrapeSEED helps students build literacy skills to assist with reading comprehension and writing skills that are necessary for young English Language Learners.

References

<https://wida.wisc.edu/sites/default/files/resource/WIDA-Standards-Framework-and-its-Theoretical-Foundations.pdf>

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