

WinkWorld February 2005

Hello Friends,

In what follows, I am sharing (a) Bilingual Basics, (b) the spiral of literacy, (c) new student treasure, (d) Baby Signs, (e) Homeschooling, and (f) Prairie Pedagogy. Next month I will focus on the National Association of Bilingual Education (NABE), and I will have part of a transcription of a presentation that Paulo Freire gave at the California Association of Bilingual Education (CABE) in 1993.

Bilingual Basics I will be sharing this with a group of teachers from central and northern California in early February. I am posting the participants handout, and the handout which I will use, which has many of the graphics at the end of the file. Help yourself.

Participants Handout: <http://www.joanwink.com/scheditems/ella-handout.pdf>

Joan's Presentation: <http://www.joanwink.com/scheditems/jwpres.pdf>

A Bilingual House: <http://www.joanwink.com/scheditems/bilhouse.pdf>

The Real World of Teaching: <http://www.joanwink.com/scheditems/pro-con.pdf>

Spiral of Literacy

This will be used with a school district in Modesto in late February.

<http://www.joanwink.com/scheditems/spiral-handout.pdf>

New Student Treasures

Gina Grgich, a teacher and graduate student, worked with her classmates of EDML 5001 Fall2004, to make meaning of language acquisition through metaphors. Although Gina had no previous experience with computer graphics, she created the following graphics to represent her understanding of the principles of second language acquisition.

First, The Bilingual Home (or the Principles of Bilingual Education)

<http://www.joanwink.com/scheditems/bilhouse.pdf>

For teachers, who have studied the principles of language acquisition, you will find hidden in the framework of the home:

- The Threshold Hypothesis
 - Sup and Cup
 - Cummins' quadrant
 - Cummins' dual iceberg
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Baby Signs

I am aware that some of you continue to be interested in Baby Signs with toddlers before their speech emerges. Lisa, our daughter-in-law, has been signing with our grandson, Austin, since he was an infant.

<http://www.joanwink.com/newsletter/2004/news0804-lisa-dawn.php>

For those of you who asked, no, he is not hearing-impaired. Baby Signs are a way of helping to reduce a child's frustration, before he/she can talk. He has an amazing vocabulary in signing, and his speech continues to emerge. Lisa just sent me a new article on baby signing: http://seattlepi.nwsource.com/lifestyle/207926_babysign15.html by Cecelia Goodnow of the Seattle Post-Intelligencer, Saturday, January 15, 2005.

Lisa also told me about the following website:
www.signingtime.com

Homeschooling

I also am aware that some of you continue to be very interested in homeschooling. Pam Franklin, a graduate student who finished about a year ago, wrote an amazing thesis on her 19 years experience of homeschooling her own children.

<http://www.joanwink.com/newsletter/2004/news0604-pam.html>

Pam recently wrote me an email about homeschooling, and I want to share her thoughts.

"Many, many, if not most, homeschoolers start homeschooling by doing "school at home. "It's the format we know-and there is comfort in that. I don't try to talk families out of it...just help add some suggestions very slowly forexpansion. The family will soon find out for themselves that it is theleast effective and the least fun for everyone-student and parents. But,I've learned, they have to go through that transformation themselves, Ican't force it on them, or it overwhelms them and they quit.

Finding the level of structure you are comfortable with and to which your child responds best is an ongoing process in homeschooling. The family that understands that and doesn't set their schedule/structure in stone will adapt better with less frustration. In our own homeschooling, we varied a great deal. When, often out of desperation, I would move to more structure, the boys would say, "She'll get over it!" And I always did!!! It is so easy to be swayed by someone else's vision of what homeschooling should look like instead of finding the way(s) that suits your family the best. In our case, it was even different for different children—Simeon could do his math hanging upside down from his bunk bed---Cyrus needed the discipline and structure of the kitchen table and mom close by. Flexibility is the key.

For those of you who have more questions, Pam can be reached at
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