The goal of Oral Language Block is to establish a consistent supportive environment through adult to child interactions. This environment allows for practice of receptive and expressive language, applying content knowledge and solving problems with conflict resolution. The Oral Language Block is the best climate for children’s healthy “sense of self” to emerge, for learning to occur, and for children to form positive child-to-child relationships.

The Oral Language Block is a 30-minute block for half-day kindergarten 3-5 days a week. Full day kindergarten receives 60-minutes, 4-5 days a week. The Oral Language Block consists of 6 work areas: house, art, book, math, writing and blocks. The students first make a plan for where they will choose to work. Students share their plan with a peer or adult prior to engaging in work time. During work time students are engaging in language and content supported by materials. Teachers are interacting with students and supporting the development of language, content, child-to-child interactions and conflict resolution. Following work time, students reorganize their materials to prepare for review time. Review time consists of students sharing what they accomplished to the class, peers or adults

**Plan-Do-Review**

**Planning Time**: Children meet with the teacher in a small group to establish a goal and quickly express personal intentions for Work Time.

**Rationale:** Children think about what they do before they do it. They learn to make real plans and this leads to concentrated and purposeful engagement with materials.

* Students draw or write their plan
* Non-verbal students may use a pointer, gestures or words from their first language

**Work (Do) Time**: After Planning Time children move to their Work Area choice (Blocks, Art, Writing, House, Math, Book) to carry out their plan. Children learn to carry out their intentions, engage with materials and peers and solve problems.

**Rationale:** Children carry on meaningful conversations with other students and an adult(s). Work Time enables children to construct knowledge as they participate, engage with materials, peers and problems.

**Children do:**

* Change plans, do not have them re-plan every time they change
* Work with materials in any area
* Move materials from one area to another (unless it is a safety issue or problem)
* Do not have preset activities during Work Time

**Steps for Solving Conflicts:**

* Approach Calmly
* Acknowledge feelings
* Gather information
* Restate the problem
* Ask for ideas for solutions & choose one together
* Be prepared to give follow-up support

**Review Time:**  Students share how they carried out their plans during Work Time.

**Rationale:** Review Time encourages children to mentally picture and share past events. Children associate that their plans effect their actions and outcomes.

* Not every child has to share every day
* Allow children to use the items they made or materials to retell what they did during Work Time
* Expect children to need support verbally expressing how they carried out their plan
* Children can share with a partner or adult during Review Time