GOING DEEPER INTO THE CLASS® MEASURE: LANGUAGE MODELING

Language Modeling (LM) is a powerful tool for educators to enhance children's language development and communication skills. This resource provides an overview of LM, its importance, and strategies for effective implementation.

Why Does Language Modeling Matter?

LM aims to promote conversations, provide individualized language support, and use varied descriptive language to help children understand and communicate more effectively. Research shows that educators can significantly enhance language development by actively modeling new language, encouraging verbal expression, providing engaging lessons, and fostering persistence in learning.

Benefits for Children

Children who experience warm relationships, engaging lessons, effective feedback, and LM are more likely to perform better in vocabulary, phonological awareness, letter-word recognition, and reading comprehension. For dual language learners (DLLs), LM promotes gains in language and literacy skills.

Key Considerations

When observing and coding for LM, consider the following questions:

- How successful was the educator at getting children to communicate?
- Was there a balance of educator and child communication?
- Did the educator intentionally model more advanced language?
- Were conversations genuine dialogues or just question-answer exchanges?

Effective LM Strategies

- Encourage educators to converse with children naturally, similar to chatting with a friend.
- Ensure conversations are dialogues, with the sharing of information between both parties.
- Avoid peppering children with questions, as this can discourage engagement.
- Emphasize the importance of educators talking with children, rather than talking to or at them.

Coding Language Modeling

LM is a vital component of language development and communication skills. Educators play a crucial role in modeling language and fostering meaningful conversations that enhance children's learning and development.