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Intro. to Communication Disorders

3 December 2022

Writing Assignment #5

Storytelling could be empowering for children because it is something that they are interested in. From experience, if you try to get a kid to listen to something they do not care about they will tune you out so fast it is impressive. With telling stories, at the beginning they will not understand much, but as they learn more, they will have obvious gains in their English abilities that they can see for themselves. Also, as a kid there was nothing I liked more than reading books, and I can imagine there are many kids out there who thought the same as me.

Parents are very involved in the OWL lab program because they valued the children’s comfort. If a kid is comfortable, it is not hard to see that they will start to learn better. They want the kids to see that they can use the language in every setting, especially at home. Another reason they involve the parents so much is so they can see the value in the language that their kids are learning. They also stated that they wanted to preserve the heritage of the parents and culture even though they may now know another language. Parents play a huge part in language development as a child because it is where they learned most of their native language, you don’t want the parents to feel like they cannot communicate with their kids anymore because they now speak English.

If I was a Speech-Language Pathologist, I would recommend that the parents should be trying to learn the language as well. If the kid sees that the parents are also trying to learn the same thing as them, they may be inclined to try harder and imitate their parents. I would further recommend that they should be giving them positive reinforcement for each time they use the language even though at home they could be using the language they know. I am a strong believer that talking to people who speak the target language is the strongest way to learn a language quickly, The parents should be encouraging and helping their kids go out of their way to make friends who speak the target language and meet lots of native speakers of the language. Finally, I would encourage them to watch media in the target language, like television, movies, and even social media.

English Language learners face many challenges throughout their time learning the language. I could easily see that if they didn’t receive the support that is there in the OWL Lab or system 44 that they could get discouraged. The students are not forced to learn the language, and if they really wanted to, they could go without it. They would be severely limited, but it is possible. The students may also think that they are not making progress as fast as they would like to, and there would be no one to show them how much they had progressed since the beginning. The worst thing that could end up happening is the student starting to think that they do not like the language and write it off completely, without ever giving it a chance again.