Adjectives

1. Considerations:
   1. Entering into intervention or teaching of adjectives a teacher or clinician needs to consider the role adjectives play in a greater grammatical concept. One specific way adjectives are a crucial aspect of a child’s grammar is the pragmatic components of an understanding of adjectives. This allows a child to understand appropriate and inappropriate uses of adjectives, such as descriptions of their peers and other individuals. (Alt & Ricks, 2015)
   2. It is also important for the clinician/ teacher to consider the impact that key grammatical concepts hold on the student's educational and linguistic development both now and in the future. According to the New York State Common Core initiative: by grade 1 students should be able to use frequently occurring adjectives, ([CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.1.1.F](http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/L/1/1/f/)) and by grade three a student should be able to Explain the function of nouns, pronouns, verbs, **adjectives,** and adverbs in general and their functions in particular sentences. ([CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.3.1.A](http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/L/3/1/a/))
2. Methods:
   1. Starting point: starting off it's important to consider the developmental appearance and understanding of adjectives for students. According to Dr. Robert Owens Adjectives develop in children's verbal language in the following order:
      1. Size, color, color and size, shape, length, temperature, height, width, age, taste, odor, attractiveness, time, speed, texture, affect, distance. (2010)
   2. According to a longitudinal study, children first begin to use adjectives at about 2 years 4 month of age. According to this information, adjectives can start to be taught and understood preceding this point in a child’s language development. (Alt & Ricks, 2015)
   3. Multiple sources suggest that when teaching adjectives it is best to start by relating them to nouns, assuming the student already has a grammatical understanding to the use and purpose of nouns. Relating adjectives to a concept that the student already understands makes their purpose more clear (by giving it a direct context) and also makes them more easily identifiable. (Jaiswal, 2005)
   4. It is also recommended that in teaching adjectives, like with anything, it is best to use concepts that are easily illustrated. In the case of adjectives this concept is best illustrated by the use of comparing and contrasting and opposites.
      1. This can also serve as good method early in teaching and intervention because it even if the student is unaware of it, it is likely something they already have concept of. This method was found to lead to the most gain with students with cognitive deficits and learning disabilities. (Mitchell, et. al.)
   5. When teaching new linguistic and grammatical concepts, it has been found to be most effective when the teacher or clinician utilizes familiar stimuli. According to Owens, a good rule of thumb for this would be New content, old form.
   6. It has been found that concepts are best understood and generalized by students when they are given meaningful examples and a meaningful purpose for these grammatical concepts. (Alt & Ricks, 2016)
      1. One specific example given to offer students a meaningful context in which to use adjectives would be story telling. Students will view the adjectives as a useful tool to convey their message accurately.
         1. Using storytelling, while meaningful is a task that isn’t as easily suited for younger students. In this case the teacher or clinician can have the student introduce the story, and ask them details throughout, more directly prompting them to consider and use adjectives in their storytelling.
3. Materials:
   1. Tangible objects to illustrate adjectives, (specifically colored, shaped, sized items)
4. Resources
   1. Books:

\* Most children's books provide a great deal of adjectives and various colors and patterns on the pages that can be implemented into a book based descriptive activity with a client- these are just some adjective specific books as well as stand out books that were found when looking for books with adjectives.

* + 1. Hairy, Scary, Ordinary. & Quirky Jerky and Extra Perky.

Interest level: K-2 Reading Level: 3.1

* + 1. Many Lucious Lollipops, Ruth Heller. - This book goes through in a storybook format and talks about what adjectives do and when they are used. It features many different adjectives mixed into the story and is great for using as an introductory or exposure lesson.

Interest level: PreK- 3 Reading level: 3.5

* + 1. Lilly’s Purple Plastic Purse, Kevin Henkes - This is a \_ Level picture book that features a number of adjectives, especially related to school. It’s also a particularly vibrant book and lends itself easily to discussion between the clinician and client on various things they see on the pages and how they can be described.

Interest level: k-2 Reading level: 3.5

* + 1. Exactly the Opposite, Tana Hoban- This books is exclusively pictures without words. It provides detailed photographs on each spread contrasting a particular subject. This is perfect for a comparing/ contrasting activity and the pictures are so specific and detailed they also lend themselves to a general description activity.

Interest level: N/A Reading level: N/A

* + 1. Is it Rough? Is it Smooth? Is it Shiny? , Tana Hoban - This Hoban book is also exclusively pictures but this book does not feature opposites but rather detailed pictures that have a distinctive feature that the client can point out. Like the previous book, this book can also be used for a descriptive activity rather easily.

Interest level: N/A Reading level: N/A

* + 1. The Right Word; Roget and His Thesaurus, Jen Bryant and Melissa Sweet- This book introduces students to Thesaurus’ which can be a great tool for older clients and students to expand their vocabulary, specifically related to adjectives or otherwise.

Interest level: K-3 Reading level: 4.1

* + 1. Things That are The Most In The World, Judi Barret- This book pays special attention to adjectives specifically comparative adjectives (most, best)

Interest level: K-2 Reading level: 4.8

* 1. Websites
     1. The Literacy Jukebox- This website and also app has a number of songs recorded about different grammatical concepts- including adjectives. Music can serve as a helpful comprehension and memory tool for teaching different concepts.

http://www.mracdpresent.com/

* + 1. Turtle Diary is a website that features many educational games, including quite a few games focused on adjectives that can serve as a learning tool as well as reinforcement for the client.

https://www.turtlediary.com/games/adjectives.html

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