

PACIFIC EARLY LITERACY RESOURCE KIT

A Compilation of Assessments and Trainings

By Winton Clarence and Jean Olopai

Once upon a time, back in the year 2000, Pacific Resources for Education and Learning's (PREL's) Regional Educational Laboratory (REL) embarked on a grand research project called the Pacific Communities with High-performance In Literacy Development (Pacific CHILD). The research question that guided the Pacific CHILD project was: What are the components of an effective professional development (PD) model for early reading improvement? Over the years, a number of pre-reading and reading comprehension assessments were developed, along

students understand the material that is being taught. Assessing the students through observation, conversation, and performance are the first steps. Teachers need to be flexible and creative to adjust lesson plans so all students have the same opportunity to learn the material.

With this concept in mind, the resource kit is divided into four sections: assess, reflect, plan, and teach. Recently, a fifth section on research was added.

After the REL entity-based staff were trained in the resource kit, they began working with their CDP schools, as well as their education departments. From June 1, 2005–September 15, 2005, REL staff had a chance to make changes and comments to ensure the best product possible.

The Pacific Early Literacy Resource Kit is now available in a binder and on CD, and has its own link on the PREL website.

Winton Clarence and Jean Olopai can be contacted at clarencw@prel.org and olopaij@prel.org, respectively. ★

Teaching Learning Cycle



Herzog, M. (Ed.). (1997). *Inside the learning network schools*. Katonah, NY: Richard C. Owens Publishers, Inc.

with intensive PD sessions for teachers on teaching strategies for struggling readers. With PREL Honolulu and Service Center staff members working closely with Co-Development Partnership (CDP) school staff, everyone learned about assessments and how they can help guide instruction. Teaching techniques were shared with the teachers to address the domains of reading that needed strengthening, as evidenced by assessments administered at the beginning of the school year. Gradually, positive changes became evident. School staff began to feel ownership in the program and supported the work of the REL staff. Although the contract came to an end, REL staff wanted to find a way to help the regional schools continue using the tools that had been developed.

The Pacific Early Literacy Resource Kit was born. PREL's REL has created a compilation of all of the assessments and trainings that proved useful to our CDP schools. One of the first concepts that was shared with the project school was the Teaching Learning Cycle (TLC) and its four components. We asked the staff to begin thinking about teaching as an assessment *for* learning, instead of the traditional teaching geared toward assessment *of* learning.

Traditionally, many teachers had been instructed to teach the text—get through the book—and make sure the students get the material. Although grades were very important, making sure that all students understood the material was not the emphasis. With the TLC, the emphasis is on making sure the

Pacific Early Literacy Resource Kit

Section I: Assess

Early Literacy and Assessment for Learning (K-3) Series

- Assessment for Learning
- Print Literacy
- Letter Knowledge
- Word Identification
- Comprehension through Retelling
- Assessment for Learning Series: A Facilitators Guide
- Look Fors: Guiding Principles for Early Literacy Learning
- Local Language Assessments

Section II: Reflect

- Involving Parents in Student Achievement
- Using Assessment Data to Improve Student Learning
- Pacific CHILD Acts of Alignment
- Pacific CHILD Data Management Information System

Section III: Plan

- Creating Literate Environments
- Developing Leveled Early Readers
- Using MS Publisher to Develop Local Language Materials
- Alphabet Charts in Pacific Languages

Section IV: Teach

- Shared Reading
- Interactive Writing
- Suggested Uses for Alphabet Charts
- Suggested Uses for Island Alphabet Books
- Strategies for Learning Pohnpeian Alphabet

Section V: Research

- Assessing Reading Fluency
- Focus on Fluency
- Focus on Vocabulary
- Focus on Comprehension