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## Message from Margie

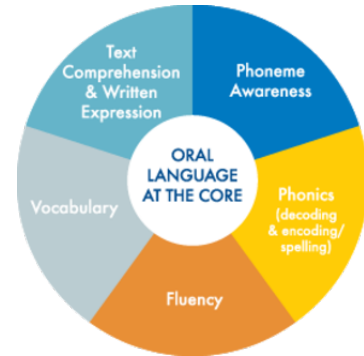
*Vocabulary is the best predictor of reading and language comprehension by grade three or four.*

**The value of explicit vocabulary instruction cannot be overstated.** Hart and Risley demonstrated over a decade ago that, by age 3, a *30 million word* gap exists between children in poverty and those in

middle class families. Teachers in every grade, starting with pre-K, need to know how to facilitate word learning and oral language to back-fill this early language gap and, ultimately, to close the reading achievement gap.

According to Oxford Dictionaries, there are about a quarter of a million words in our English language. How do teachers build students' working lexicons from this vast word list? This month we share several evidence-based approaches for selecting and teaching vocabulary (additive, generative, word consciousness and academic language), tips for teachers and principals, links, resources and more for fostering a love and appreciation of our glorious English language.

**Let's keep children at the heart of what we do,**



**The Literacy How Reading Wheel** depicts the essential components of comprehensive, research-based literacy instruction, with oral language at the core.

## February: Exploring Vocabulary

[Click on the wheel to explore.](#)

**Our Mission** is to EMPOWER TEACHERS to ensure that every child learns to read well by third grade.

