



Prifysgol Cymru
Y Drindod Dewi Sant
University of Wales
Trinity Saint David

Trawsnewid Addysg, Trawsnewid Bywydau
Transforming Education, Transforming Lives



Prifysgol Cymru
Y Drindod Dewi Sant
University of Wales
Trinity Saint David

Yr Athrofa
Centre for Education
Addysg i Gymru | Education for Wales

Trawsnewid Addysg,
Trawsnewid Bywydau

Transforming Education,
Transforming Lives

www.uwtsd.ac.uk



ECAD4007 An Introduction to Language Development

October
2023

Aims

1. To become aware of different theories of language development;
2. To look at how language development progresses;
3. To find out about what behaviours support language development;
4. To look at some data about language development;
5. To consider how a school might support a child like Ella when she starts school.



Prifysgol Cymru
Y Drindod Dewi Sant
University of Wales
Trinity Saint David

Yr Athrofa
Centre for Education
Addysg i Gymru | Education for Wales

Think
About
This

Trawsnewid Addysg,
Trawsnewid Bywydau

Transforming Education,
Transforming Lives

www.uwtsd.ac.uk



Prifysgol Cymru
Y Drindod Dewi Sant
University of Wales
Trinity Saint David

'Learning language is complex, so much so that no one has yet been able to programme a computer to do what we as human beings seem to do 'by magic' (Gross, 2013:4).



Prifysgol Cymru
Y Drindod Dewi Sant
University of Wales
Trinity Saint David

Yr Athrofa
Centre for Education
Addysg i Gymru | Education for Wales

How do we develop spoken language?

Trawsnewid Addysg,
Trawsnewid Bywydau

Transforming Education,
Transforming Lives

www.uwtsd.ac.uk



Prifysgol Cymru
Y Drindod Dewi Sant
University of Wales
Trinity Saint David





Prifysgol Cymru
Y Drindod Dewi Sant
University of Wales
Trinity Saint David

Yr Athrofa
Centre for Education
Addysg i Gymru | Education for Wales

The Stages

Trawsnewid Addysg,
Trawsnewid Bywydau

Transforming Education,
Transforming Lives

www.uwtsd.ac.uk



Prifysgol Cymru
Y Drindod Dewi Sant
University of Wales
Trinity Saint David



Learning to Talk Ages and Stages



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government



Prifysgol Cymru
Y Drindod Dewi Sant
University of Wales
Trinity Saint David

Yr Athrofa
Centre for Education
Addysg i Gymru | Education for Wales

The Stages

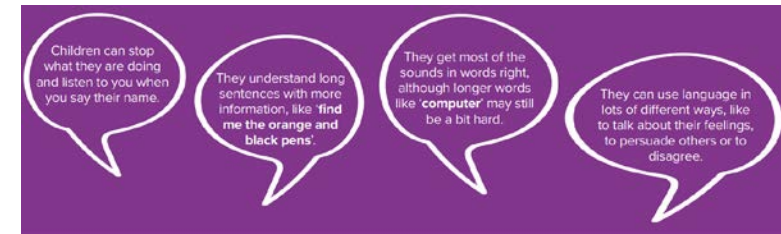
Trawsnewid Addysg,
Trawsnewid Bywydau

Transforming Education,
Transforming Lives

www.uwtsd.ac.uk



Prifysgol Cymru
Y Drindod Dewi Sant
University of Wales
Trinity Saint David



[help-for-parents-learning-to-talk-ages-and-stages.pdf](#)



Prifysgol Cymru
Y Drindod Dewi Sant
University of Wales
Trinity Saint David

Yr Athrofa
Centre for Education
Addysg i Gymru | Education for Wales

The Theories

Trawsnewid Addysg,
Trawsnewid Bywydau

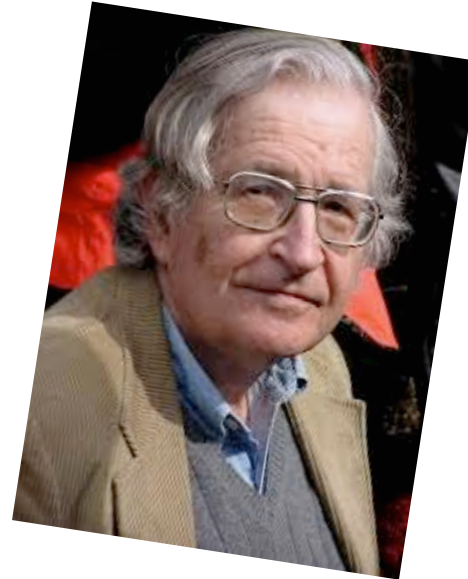
Transforming Education,
Transforming Lives

www.uwtsd.ac.uk

Nativist Chomsky



Behaviourist Skinner



Who was
right?



Cognitivist Vygotsky



Prifysgol Cymru
Y Drindod Dewi Sant
University of Wales
Trinity Saint David



Prifysgol Cymru
Y Drindod Dewi Sant
University of Wales
Trinity Saint David

Yr Athrofa
Centre for Education
Addysg i Gymru | Education for Wales

What Supports Learning?

Trawsnewid Addysg,
Trawsnewid Bywydau

Transforming Education,
Transforming Lives

www.uwtsd.ac.uk



Prifysgol Cymru
Y Drindod Dewi Sant
University of Wales
Trinity Saint David





Prifysgol Cymru
Y Drindod Dewi Sant
University of Wales
Trinity Saint David

Yr Athrofa
Centre for Education
Addysg i Gymru | Education for Wales

The Worrying Reports

Trawsnewid Addysg,
Trawsnewid Bywydau

Transforming Education,
Transforming Lives

www.uwtsd.ac.uk



Prifysgol Cymru
Y Drindod Dewi Sant
University of Wales
Trinity Saint David

"In England, children who were eligible for free school meals were 2 times more likely not to achieve expected levels of CLL [Communication, Language and Literacy] than children who were not eligible for FSM."

Law et al. (2017, p.15)



Prifysgol Cymru
Y Drindod Dewi Sant
University of Wales
Trinity Saint David

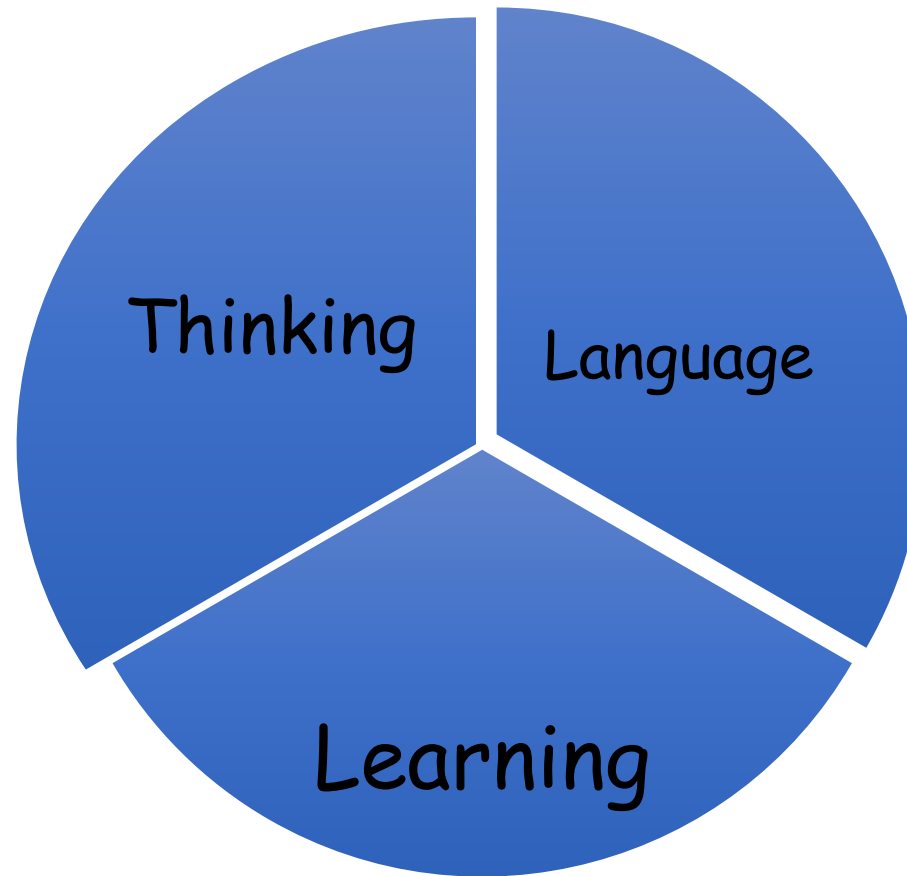
Yr Athrofa
Centre for Education
Addysg i Gymru | Education for Wales

The Role of Language in Learning

Trawsnewid Addysg,
Trawsnewid Bywydau

Transforming Education,
Transforming Lives

www.uwtsd.ac.uk



There is a lot of research evidence that suggests that when schools take steps to develop pupils spoken language skills the pupils' overall attainment improves.



Prifysgol Cymru
Y Drindod Dewi Sant
University of Wales
Trinity Saint David

Yr Athrofa
Centre for Education
Addysg i Gymru | Education for Wales

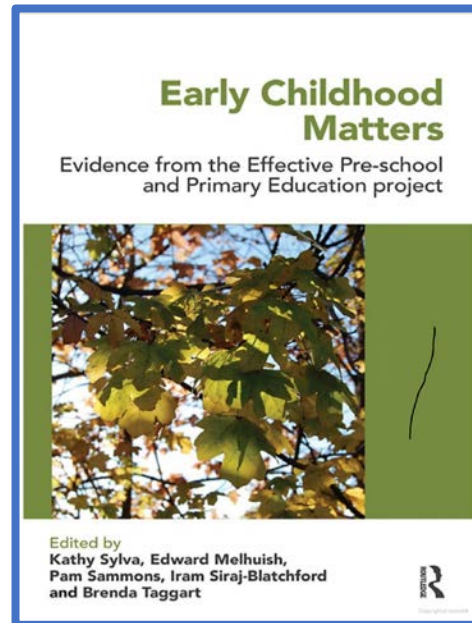
What Supports Learning?

Trawsnewid Addysg,
Trawsnewid Bywydau

Transforming Education,
Transforming Lives

www.uwtsd.ac.uk

Evidence from Effective Pre-school and Primary education project showed that it was the **QUALITY** of the home learning environment (HLE) that the greatest impact on a child's language development, regardless of the family background. What mattered was the types of activities the parent(s) and child engaged in.



1. Frequency of being read to;
2. Going to the library;
3. Playing with numbers;
4. Painting and drawing;
5. Being taught letters;
6. Being taught numbers ;
7. Songs / poems / rhymes.



Prifysgol Cymru
Y Drindod Dewi Sant
University of Wales
Trinity Saint David

Yr Athrofa
Centre for Education
Addysg i Gymru | Education for Wales

Initiatives to Support Parents

Trawsnewid Addysg,
Trawsnewid Bywydau

Transforming Education,
Transforming Lives

www.uwtsd.ac.uk



<https://babylab.brookes.ac.uk/bilingualism>



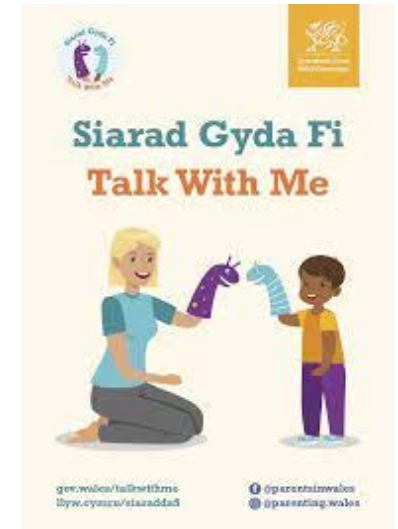
<https://hungrylittleminds.com>
paign.gov.uk/



<https://www.bbc.co.uk/tiny-happy-people>



Prifysgol Cymru
Y Drindod Dewi Sant
University of Wales
Trinity Saint David



<https://gov.wales/talk-with-me>



Prifysgol Cymru
Y Drindod Dewi Sant
University of Wales
Trinity Saint David

Yr Athrofa
Centre for Education
Addysg i Gymru | Education for Wales

Advice to Parents?

Trawsnewid Addysg,
Trawsnewid Bywydau

Transforming Education,
Transforming Lives

www.uwtsd.ac.uk



What would your
advice be to parents?



Prifysgol Cymru
Y Drindod Dewi Sant
University of Wales
Trinity Saint David

[learning-to-
talk-a-pack-for-
parents.pdf](#)





Prifysgol Cymru
Y Drindod Dewi Sant
University of Wales
Trinity Saint David

Yr Athrofa
Centre for Education
Addysg i Gymru | Education for Wales

Challenges to language development

Trawsnewid Addysg,
Trawsnewid Bywydau

Transforming Education,
Transforming Lives

www.uwtsd.ac.uk



Prifysgol Cymru
Y Drindod Dewi Sant
University of Wales
Trinity Saint David

- Poor experiences of language modelling
- Specific language difficulties
- Neurological differences
- Communication differences
- Language disorders
- Social barriers

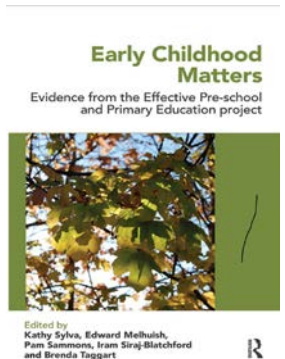
The Good News

Trawsnewid Addysg,
Trawsnewid Bywydau

Transforming Education,
Transforming Lives

www.uwtsd.ac.uk

Research from the EPPSI study (Siraj-Blatchford *et al.*, 2011) revealed that outstanding teachers in highly effective schools use dialogic teaching and learning, collaborative talk and instructional conversations to raise the standards of pupils' language (Gross, 2013).





Prifysgol Cymru
Y Drindod Dewi Sant
University of Wales
Trinity Saint David

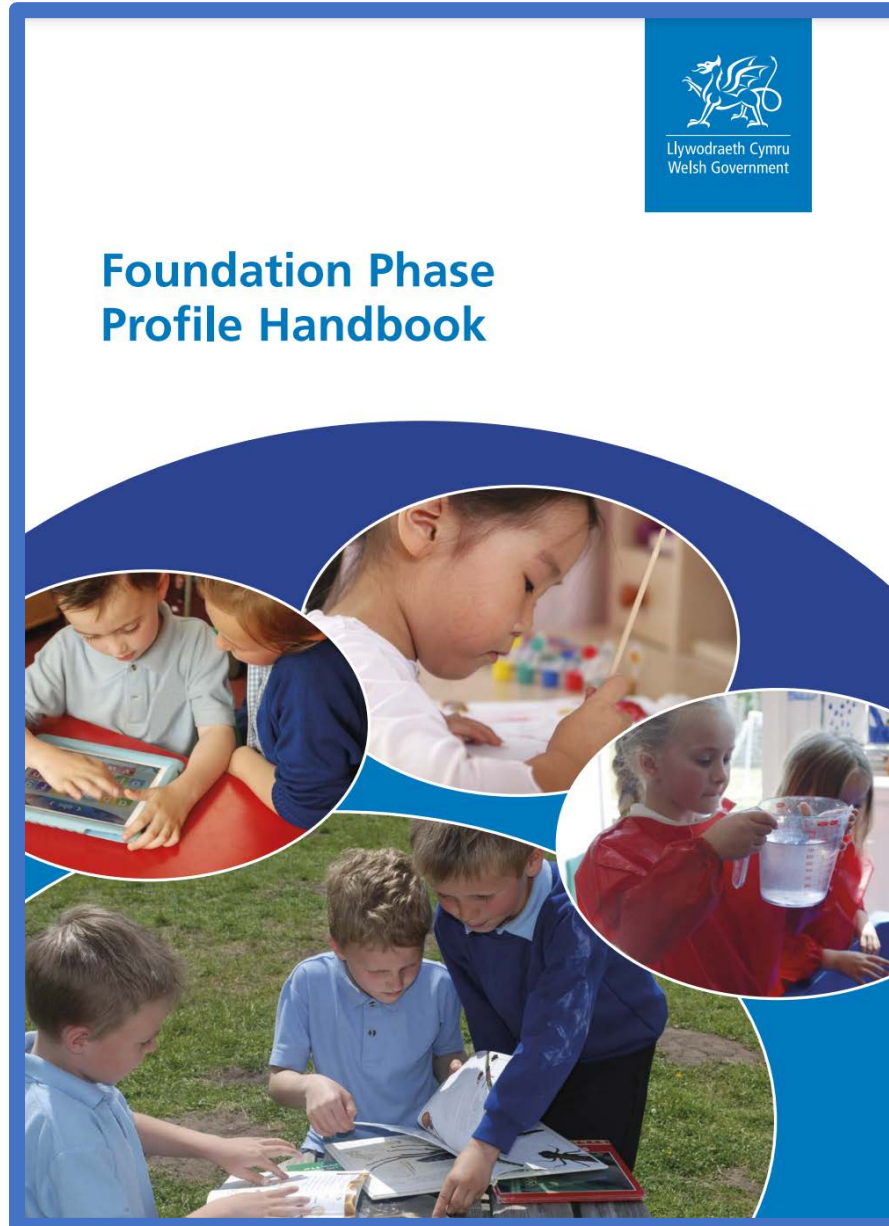
Yr Athrofa
Centre for Education
Addysg i Gymru | Education for Wales

The Foundation Phase Profile

Trawsnewid Addysg,
Trawsnewid Bywydau

Transforming Education,
Transforming Lives

www.uwtsd.ac.uk



Prifysgol Cymru
Y Drindod Dewi Sant
University of Wales
Trinity Saint David

[foundation-
phase-profile-
handbook-
revised-
september-
2017.pdf](#)



Prifysgol Cymru
Y Drindod Dewi Sant
University of Wales
Trinity Saint David

Yr Athrofa
Centre for Education
Addysg i Gymru | Education for Wales

Ella - where
would you place
her on the
profile?

Trawsnewid Addysg,
Trawsnewid Bywydau

Transforming Education,
Transforming Lives

www.uwtsd.ac.uk



Prifysgol Cymru
Y Drindod Dewi Sant
University of Wales
Trinity Saint David

• Language, Literacy and Communication Skills

- Ella can talk, though not always clearly, using many one word responses
- She is able to hear and has good listening skills
- She can hold a pencil with a 'splayed' four finger grip and scribble on paper
- Ella uses gesture to communicate her needs, although she can be very reluctant to do so.
- She rarely initiates talk, but will respond
- She has not yet established a definite hand preference and can't imitate zig zag lines
- Ella plays silently alongside her peers in the role play area
- She occasionally speaks in sentences of five to six words
- Ella is able to recall parts of a story
- Ella is unable to tell a short story in full





Prifysgol Cymru
Y Drindod Dewi Sant
University of Wales
Trinity Saint David

Yr Athrofa
Centre for Education
Addysg i Gymru | Education for Wales

The Effects of the Covid Pandemic

Trawsnewid Addysg,
Trawsnewid Bywydau

Transforming Education,
Transforming Lives

www.uwtsd.ac.uk

What would
you predict the
long-term
effects will be
on children's
language
development?



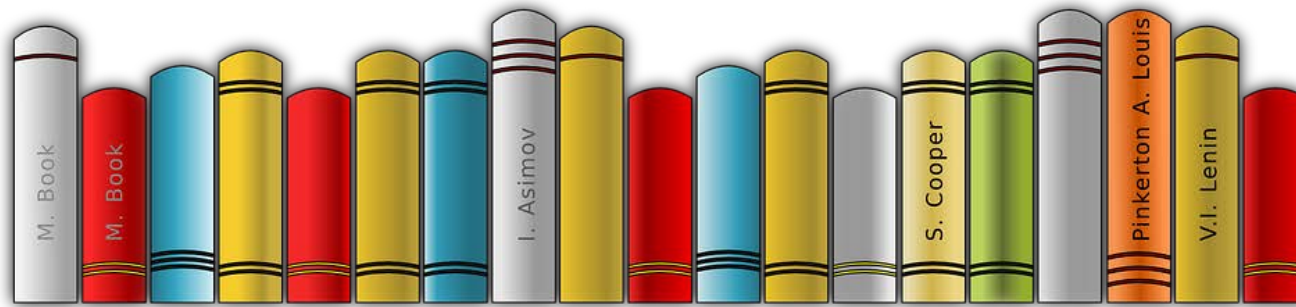
Prifysgol Cymru
Y Drindod Dewi Sant
University of Wales
Trinity Saint David





Prifysgol Cymru
Y Drindod Dewi Sant
University of Wales
Trinity Saint David

Yr Athrofa
Centre for Education
Addysg i Gymru | Education for Wales



Reference

- Alexander, R. (2008) *Towards dialogic teaching: re-thinking classroom talk* (4th ed.). Dialogos.
- Gross, J. (2013) *Time to Talk: Implementing Outstanding Practice in Speech, Language and Communication*. Oxon: Routledge.
- Law, J. Charlton, J. Dockrell, J. Gascoigne, M. McKean, C. and Theakston, A. (2017) *Early Language Development: Needs, provision, and intervention for preschool children from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds*. Public Health England
- Mannion, J. and Mercer, N. (2016) Learning to learn: improving attainment, closing the gap at Key Stage 3. *The Curriculum Journal*
- Melushi, E. (2010) Why children, parents and home learning are important in Sylva, K., Melushi, E., Sammons, P., Siraj-Blatchford, I. and Taggart B. (2010) *Early Childhood Matters: Evidence from the Effective Pre-school and Primary Education project*. Routledge: Abingdon
- Michaels, S., O'Connor, C., & Resnick, L. B. (2008), 'Deliberative discourse idealized and realized: accountable talk in the classroom and in civic life', *Studies in Philosophy and Education*, 27(4), 283-297.
- Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists (2019) *Oracy APPG's 2019 Inquiry: Speaking for Change Written evidence submitted by the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists (RCSLT)*
- Sylva, K., Melushi, E., Sammons, P., Siraj-Blatchford, I. and Taggart B. (2010) *Early Childhood Matters: Evidence from the Effective Pre-school and Primary Education project*. Routledge: Abingdon

Trawsnewid Addysg,
Trawsnewid Bywydau

Transforming Education,
Transforming Lives

www.uwtsd.ac.uk