

School Readiness and Emergent Literacy

- Adapted from Ch 6 Working with Children from Culturally Diverse Backgrounds M. Diane Klein & Deborah Chen.
- When transitioning children from diverse backgrounds to formal schooling Some factors depend on children's early experience.
- The area of literacy readiness is particularly vulnerable to children's early experiences.
- The issue of mismatch between children's early experience and school expectations seriously threaten the potential for school achievement.
- Neuman and Roskos (1994) suggest the need "to ease the fundamental discontinuity between home and school learning contexts with a culturally responsive approach"
- Nueman and Roskos include the following features.
 - 1. Respect children's home culture by building on the issues of language and literacy with which they are already similar.
 - 2. Engage children in language and literacy activities that foster collaboration and sharing of cultural perspectives.
- A term that reflects the increasing emphasis on the relationship of early experience to literacy is " emergent literacy.
- Literacy is not simply an accumulation of the specific skills related to encoding and decoding print.
- Classroom Strategies
- Determine the types of literacy activities that already occur in children's homes and incorporate and expand on these

in the classroom

- Select stories and books relevant to children's lives; create books from familiar pictures in magazines or photos
- Provide parents with copies of storybooks used in the classroom: translate if necessary
- Throughout the classroom day, model the uses of print by incorporating print and writing materials into daily activities and play centers.
- Social aspects of school readiness
- Some children may be uncomfortable being singled out in front of peers: many prefer being part of the group.
- Children may be comforted by teachers' expression of interest and connection to their families
- Some children may be more comfortable with high levels of activity: others may adjust better to quieter, highly predictable environments