

Report - Day 2

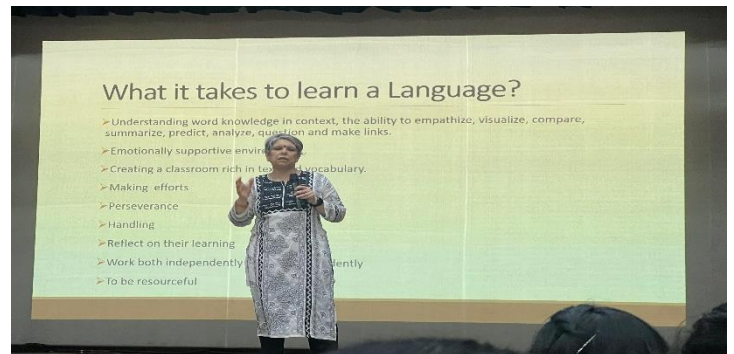
Topic: 'Balanced Literacy Approach at the Foundational stage' (Base Lecture & Hands-on Activities)

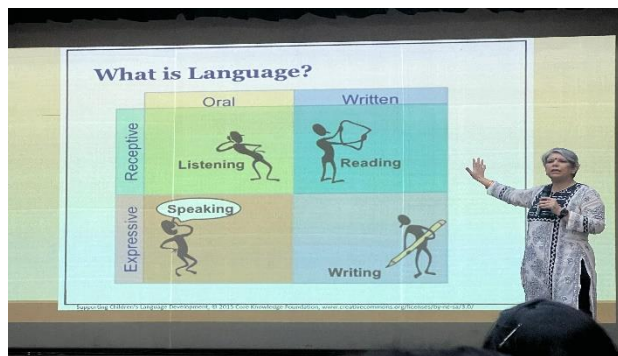
Resource person: Dr. Suniti Sanwal - Professor & Head, Dept. of Elementary education, NCERT.

Day/Date: Tuesday - 14th May, 2024

Venue: Bal Bharati Public School, Ganga Ram Hospital Marg

The speaker for the day, Professor Suniti Sanwal, Head of the Department of Elementary Education at NCERT, discussed the 'Balanced Literacy Approach'. Professor Sanwal first explained different approaches to language, namely the phonetic approach and the Whole Language approach. The Whole Language approach focuses on pedagogical methods like word-building, storytelling, etc. - where children listen to words repeatedly and gradually learn to read and write. Professor Sanwal then explained the balanced literacy approach, which is also based on similar assumptions. She also discussed the Science of Reading as the fourth approach to language. Prof. Sanwal effectively explained the difference between language and literacy with the help of a PowerPoint presentation (PPT). Research indicates that language development is a combination of biological and social processes. To teach language to children, facilitators should create an emotionally supportive and print-rich environment, demonstrate perseverance, reflect on learning, and encourage children to be independent, she explained with examples.

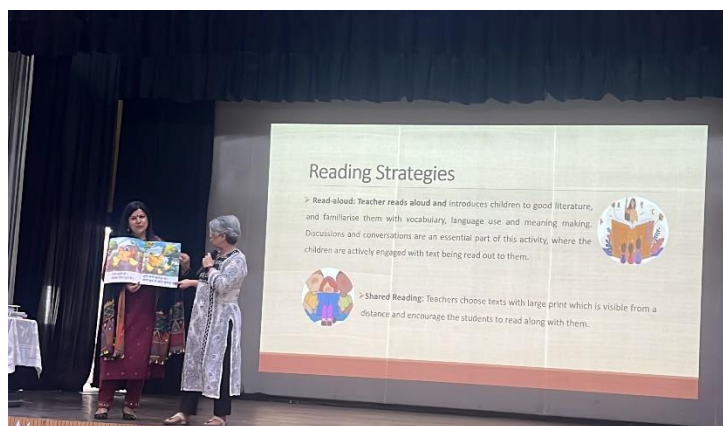




Professor Sanwal explained that the Balanced Literacy approach emphasizes a balance between lower and higher order language & literacy skills by incorporating a variety of activities such as storytelling, discussions, conversations about pictures, and themes to develop oral language. Explicit instructions are given to establish letter-sound relationships

through decoding, where attention is focused on the sequence of sounds in words, it was well explained with examples wherever needed.

Strategies for developing print concepts were shared, along with examples and anecdotes, to help facilitators effectively use them in their classroom teaching. When explaining Phonological Awareness strategies, Prof. Sanwal emphasized the use of alliterations, the phonological awareness continuum, syllable blending, onset-rime blending, phonemic awareness, and vocabulary enhancement to promote literacy among children. To make the session interesting, she encouraged facilitators to create alliterations and practice syllable blending. At the end of the session, she demonstrated the correct reading strategy to help children learn to read.



Ms. Nanu Rekhi proposed a concluding note, emphasizing that language should not be taught as a subject but should be engrained with the basic daily & routine activities that young children indulge in at home & school. She further stressed that language serves as a platform to engage learners and encouraged



facilitators to become involved in the classroom culture, guiding each learner to become an active participant.



Overall, the session provided an enriching experience for the facilitators to understand, engage, practice, and develop language skills among children more effectively.