

Promoting the Power of Siblings for Natural Language Development

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Presenters

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Disclosures

Valerie James Abbott

Relevant Financial Relationships:

- Receives royalties from a children's book about late onset hearing loss.
- Serves as director of Padapillo, PBLLC

Relevant Non-Financial Relationships:

- Serves as co-chair of the VA EHDI Advisory Committee

Judy Alonzi

Relevant Financial Relationships:

- None

Relevant Non-Financial Relationships:

- Serves as co-chair of the VA EHDI Advisory Committee

Learning Objectives

- Participants will understand why siblings (and 'extended' siblings) can be excellent language role models
- Participants will develop strategies for families to engage 'siblings' in everyday language building activities
- Participants will understand the role siblings play in some historically underserved communities

SIBLING POWER AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE DREAM TEAM

Let's Define Them:

- The Obvious
- Cousins
- Neighborhood friends
- Arranged playdate friends
- Grandparents
- Aunts, Uncles
- More



THE PRESSURE ON THE PRIMARY CAREGIVER IS REAL

- The Primary Caregiver (PC) is continually showered with;
 - Parent Engagement = Success
 - Make a language rich environment/lifestyle
 - Talk through your daily routine, errands, activities
 - Set up the language learning environment
 - Set up interactions for child to participate/imitate
- Work, family, chores and providing a language rich environment impact the PC's stress level

Enter that extended sibling dream team

WHAT DOES THE RESEARCH TELL US ABOUT SIBLINGS AND LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT

- That having siblings increases the language and communication skills for children with language delays (2)
 - Good role models
 - constant social interaction
- First born children and children *without* siblings have higher language scores than those that do (1)(4)
 - Parents have more time and attention to devote to language goals
 - More resources and opportunities
 - Older children talk for younger children
 - Female siblings did show a more positive outcome over male siblings
- A Longitudinal study by Lu, Che, On, and Liang in June of 2022 looked at how children with language delays with or without siblings, made progress in their language outcomes.

Conclusion?

‘Siblings’ in the home does not necessarily mean increased language access for a young child with hearing loss

Sometimes this relationship needs to be actively modulated

- Efficacy studies on sibling-mediated interventions that include siblings as active treatment implementers rather than passive bystanders have reported more positive outcomes. (4)
- A caring and sensitive ‘sibling’ that is provided the resources can add another valuable participant in a child’s language development
- Overall improved outcomes for child/sibling relationships when family members become part of the learning process

HOW DO WE CULTIVATE THAT SENSITIVE AND CARING 'SIBLING'

- Identify:
 - Role
 - Personality
 - Interests
 - language and literacy Strengths
 - Other strengths or weaknesses
- Remember, the diverse sibling group that may also be parents, are an asset as in this role they become a peer play partner with the child in a way a primary caregiver is not.
- The goal is to create a language model peer
- Especially helpful for children NOT in a childcare setting



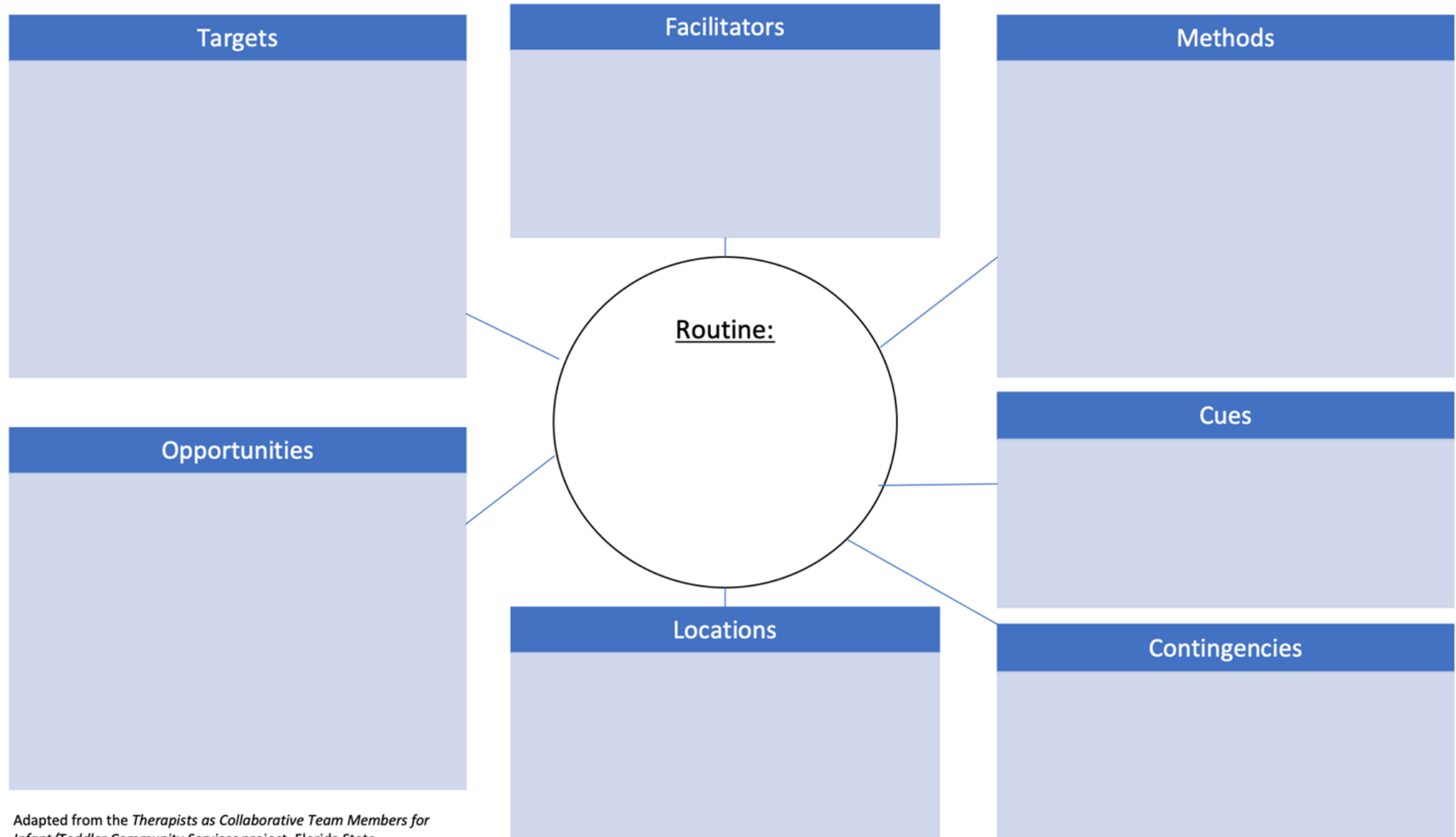
STRATEGIES

Ways to engage the 'sibling' with the language learning child?

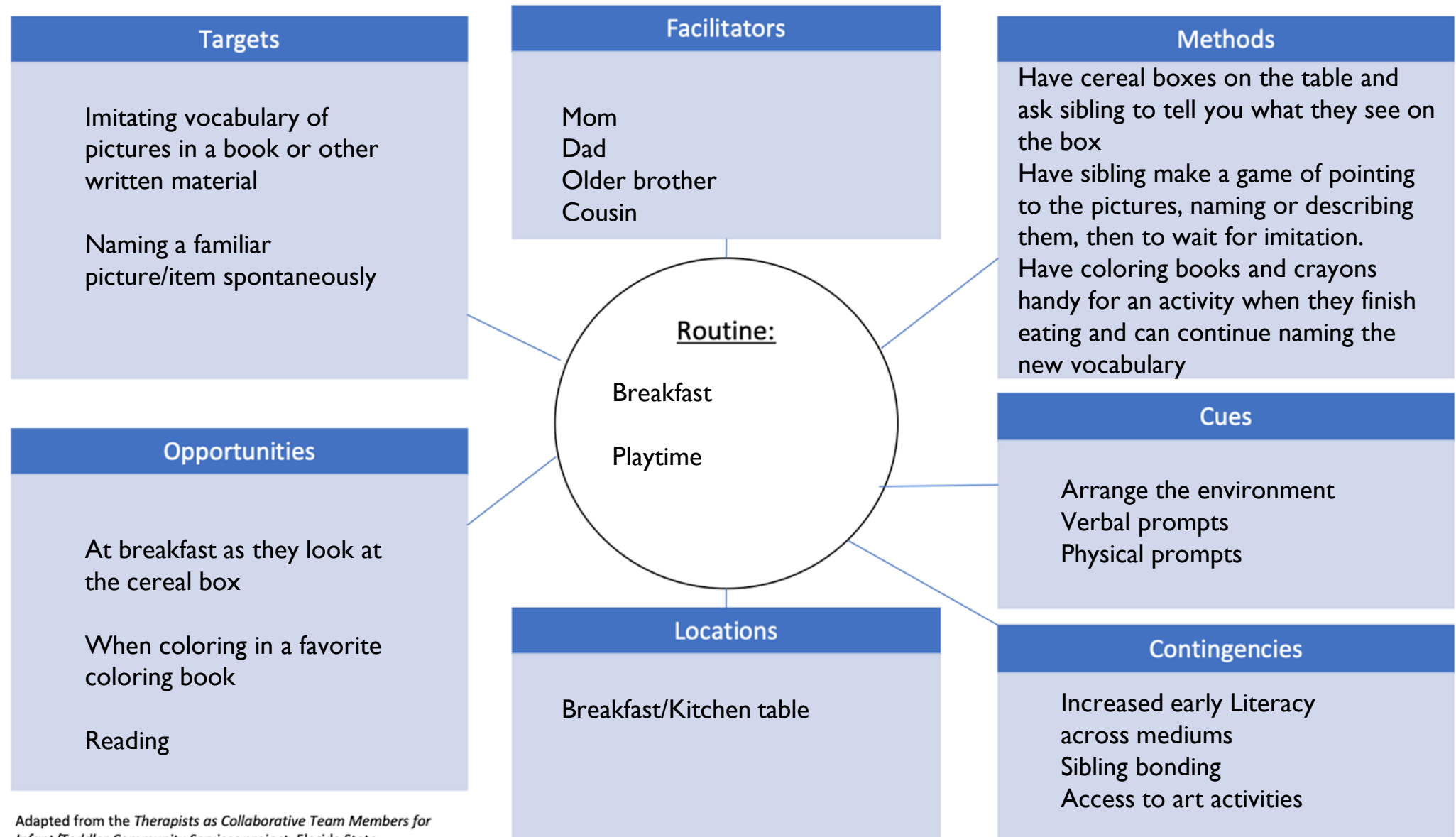
- Mom models
- Sharing a goal
- Teach turn taking in play
- Read or tell a story
- Sing songs together
- Talk about what they notice
- Encourage the sibling to give positive feedback or models back to child
- Create simple recipes, activities
- Wait, watch and count



Family Guided Routines Based Intervention



Family Guided Routines Based Intervention



LEVERAGE THE LEADER OF THE PACK

How can we use what we know about Birth Order to maximize language learning opportunities?



POSITIVE OUTCOMES!



Livin' the Dream!

WHAT DO WE HOPE THIS LOOKS LIKE?

- Siblings are as much a part of therapy with therapists as the parent (when possible) and adapt play and language modeling to benefit present goals
- Siblings provide social and language models to child throughout their time together
- Siblings provide feedback or repetition to child organically within their day in much the same way as the parent
- Child with hearing loss responds as well to parents as they do to the siblings because the older child expects a response they can understand as they would any one else in the household
- Siblings are active contributors to that language rich environment in the home, even when it is not directed specifically to the child with hearing loss



Questions?

CITATIONS

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3. Elham Malmeer Department of English Teaching, Science and Research Branch, Islamic Azad University, Kermanshah, Iran, Language Production and Comprehension: The Effect of Pre-school Aged Siblings on Toddlers Language Development, Theory and Practice in Language Studies, Vol. 3, No. 7, pp. 1226-1231, July 2013 © 2013 ACADEMY PUBLISHER
Manufactured in Finland. doi:10.4304/tpls.3.7.1226-1231,
4. Association of sibling presence with language development before early school age among children with developmental delays: A longitudinal study, Journal of the Formosan Medical Association, Volume 121, Issue 6, June 2022, Pages 1044-1052
5. Family Guided Routine Based Interventions <https://fgrbi.com/>