reading also exposes language learners to a range of structures and forms that can be far more frequent in written language than in oral language. For students who need to become more skilled readers, both in their first and second languages, young learners identify the similarities with oral interaction. As a result, teachers can extend interpersonal communication beyond the classroom. Students can continue to build their fluency and comfort using the target language through synchronous communication with the teacher or peers.

We know more about language development than ever before. New research on literacy promotes the growth of their native language for our English-speaking students can inform the decisions that we make for target language curriculum and instruction. It is now clear that oral language and literacy are interdependent. Oral language helps students know the meanings of the words they encounter in print. Print, in turn, exposes students to far more language than they can meet in the classroom, or even in social interaction outside the classroom.

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