

Assessing Language Development and Mathematics Knowledge of English Language Learners

José L. Rodríguez
Intercultural Development Research Association



Objectives

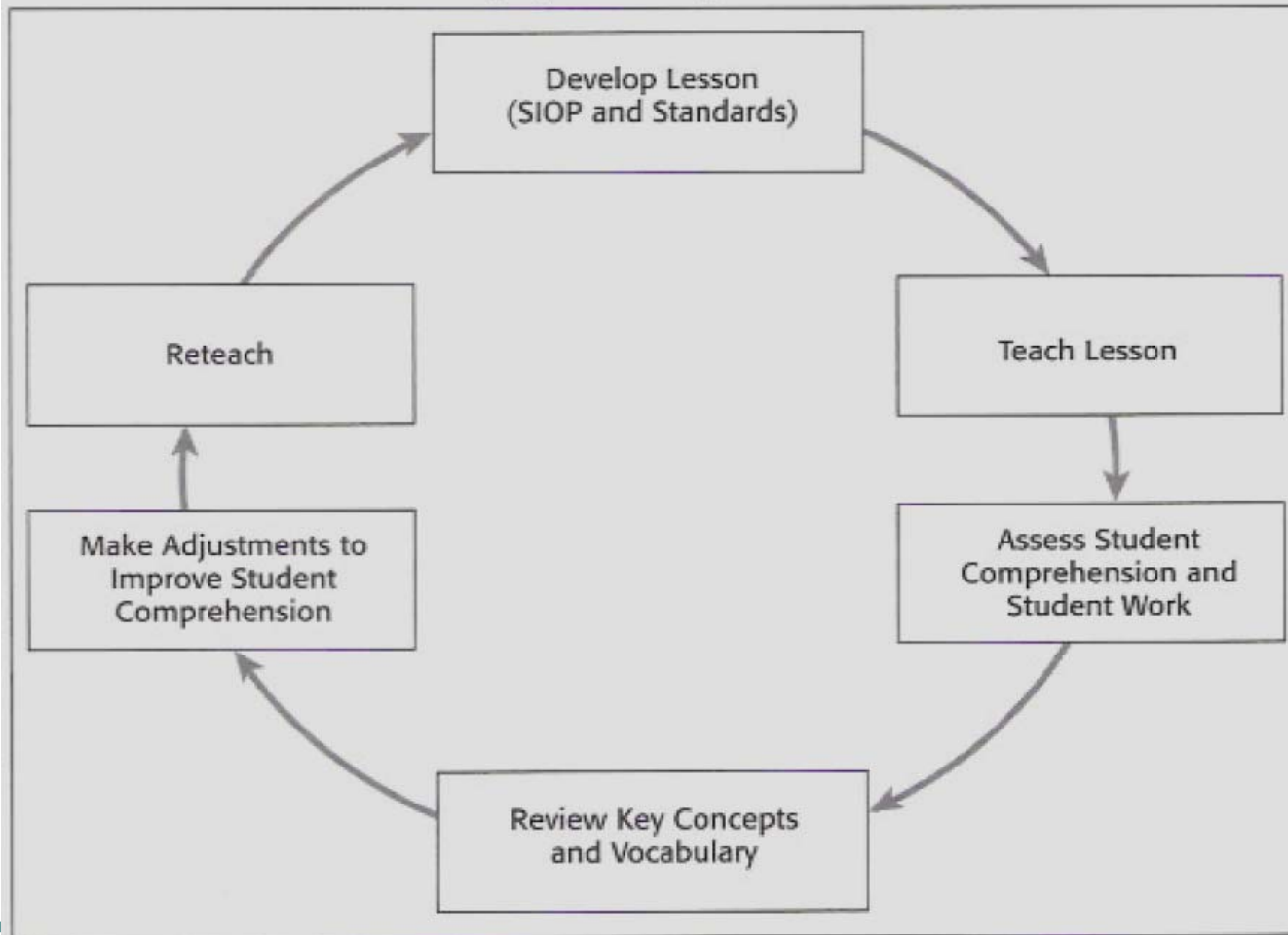
- Select techniques for reviewing key content concepts
- Obtain ideas on incorporating a variety of assessments into lessons
- Recognize challenges in assessing the content learning of students with limited English proficiency

Language Objectives

- Review key vocabulary throughout a lesson and a unit
- Explain how feedback can be valuable for student language development
- Use oral, written, and physical means to provide specific feedback to students on their performance

SIOP Model

FIGURE 9.1 Effective Teaching Cycle for English Learners



Exit Level TAKS

Mr. Henry decided to invest money earned from selling some land. He invested \$5000 of the money at an annual rate of 4% and the rest of the money, x , at an annual rate of 6.25%. Which equation describes y , the total amount of interest earned from both investments during the first year?

A* $y = 0.04(5000) + 0.0625x$

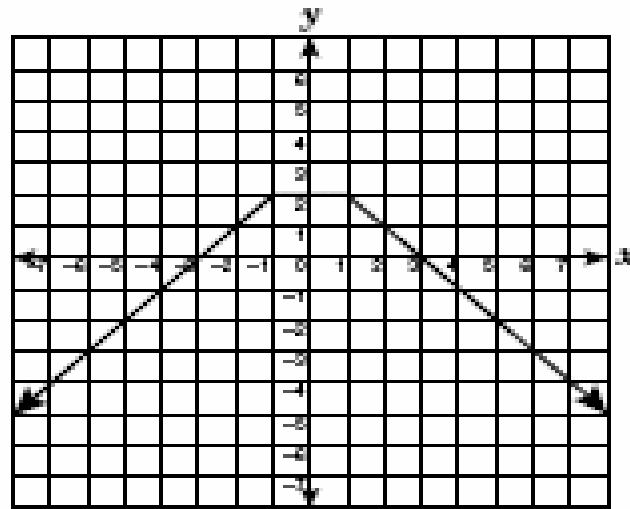
B $y = 4(5000) + 6.25x$

C $y = (5000 + x)(0.04 + 0.0625)$

D $y = (5000 + x)(4 + 6.25)$

Exit Level TAKS

- 1 Which best describes the range represented in the graph?



- A $-8 \leq y \leq 8$
B $-8 \leq x \leq 8$
C $x \leq 2$
D $y \leq 2$

Questionable Classroom Testing Procedures

- Using tests as punishment
- Administering tests instead of instruction
- Using test as the exclusive measure for grading
- Testing materials not taught
- Returning tests with no feedback
- Using only one testing method
- Taking too long in returning tests

(based on Shohamy, 1985)

Promising Classroom Testing Procedures

- Broadening the scope of what is included in assessment from test alone to a variety of formal and informal assessment techniques
- Viewing assessment as an opportunity for meaningful interaction between teacher and student
- Judging students on the basis of the knowledge they have, rather than on what they do not know

Promising Classroom Testing Procedures

- Using assessment measures intended to help learners to improve their skills
- Making sure that the criteria for success on an assessment task are made clear to the respondents
- Having students' grades reflect their performance on a set of tests representing different assessment methods, rather than being based on just one measure

Promising Classroom Testing Procedures

- Training the test takers in test-taking strategies if performance on the assessment tasks could benefit from such training
- Returning the evaluated tests promptly
- Discussing the results in class or in individual sessions

(based on Shohamy, 1985)

Review/Assess Activities

A Carousel Walk:

- List ideas about assessment techniques on the different chart tablet paper posted around the room.
- Now, walk around to view others' ideas

Conclusions

- Questions & Answers
- Review of Objectives
- Evaluation

References

- Cohen, A.(1994). *Assessing Language Ability in the Classroom*. Boston: Heinle & Heinle Publishers.
- Echevarria, J., Vogt, M. & Short, D.J. (2004). *Making Content Comprehensible for English Learners: The SIOP Model. 2nd ed.* Boston: Pearson Allyn & Bacon
- Texas Education Agency