

Word Tiers

Word tiers are used to identify words or kinds of words that need to be taught through robust vocabulary instruction.

Tier 1

- Basic words that reflect informal, everyday experiences of learners; usually familiar words

Tier 2

- More sophisticated words that have high utility for literate language users; characterize written text, but not typically common in everyday language; consider whether the words are likely to be found within a variety of contexts

Tier 3

- Words that apply to specific domains; infrequently used in other oral or written discourse

Adapted from Beck, McKeown, & Kucan, 2008