



The Morphological Analysis Pathway to Reading in Multilingual Learners



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Introduction

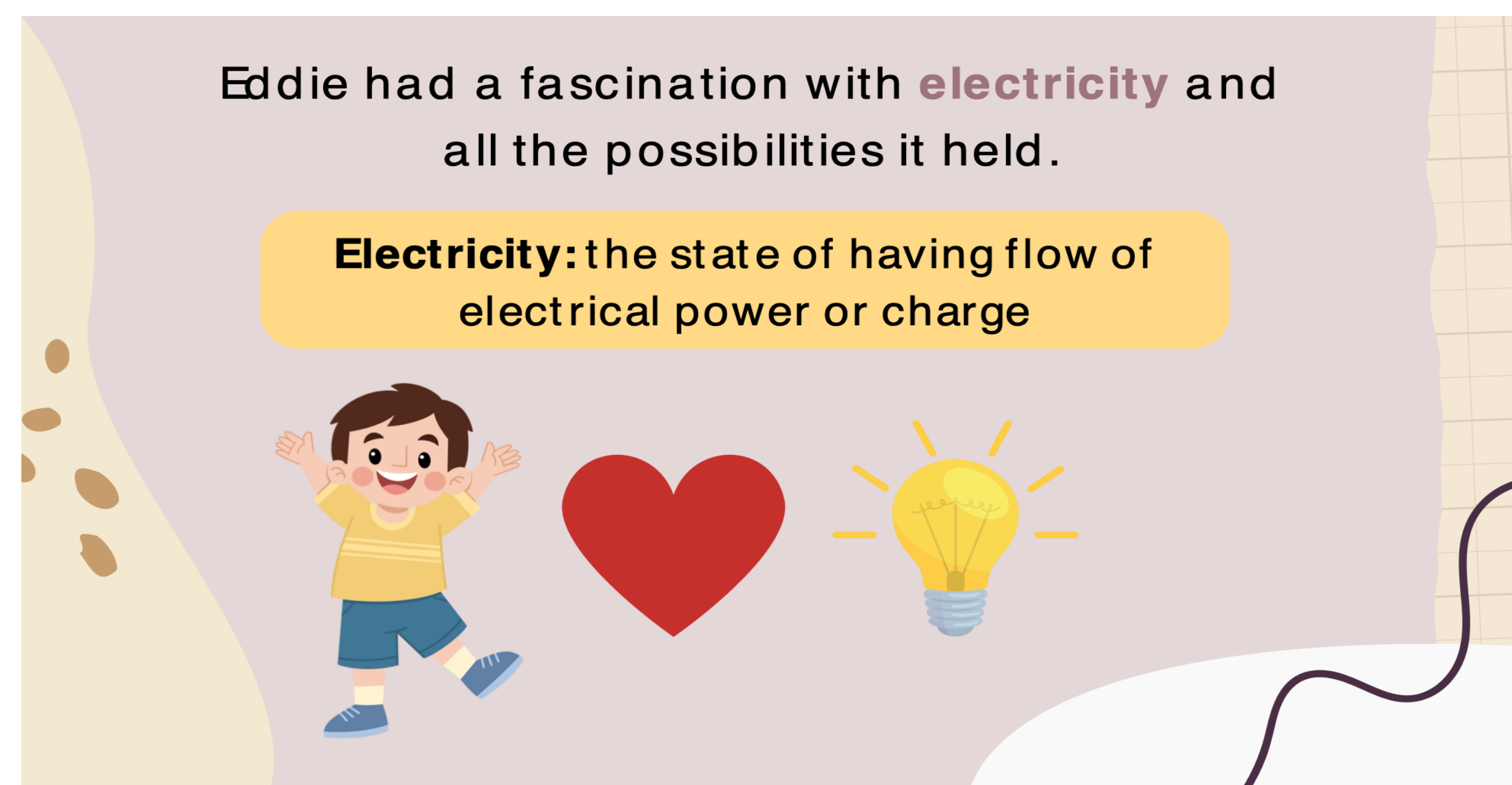
- Many educators struggle to keep up with the unique needs of the growing population of English learners who are simultaneously attaining academic skills and language proficiency through elementary education. Thus, it is vital that educators build a child’s morphological awareness at a young age, breaking the otherwise gap in their literacy proficiency.
- Morphological awareness can be defined as the understanding of how we comprehend the ability for all words to be dissected into smaller units like roots and prefixes.
- While many different approaches can be taken to improve reading comprehension, in both English and Spanish speaking children, the Morphological Analysis Pathway to Reading (MAP-R) seems to be an effective method for remedying the aforementioned knowledge and academic vocabulary.
- Following a five- year period funded by the U.S. Department of Education using a technology-based approach in delivering literacy instruction for multilingual elementary aged students with or at risk of learning disabilities, we hope to improve the Florida curriculum and delivery of instruction.

Results

- As our research project has just begun its piloting phase in educational facilities around Tallahassee, we are unable to draw conclusions to support or contradict our hypothesis.
- We expect our results to show that the implementation the morpheme and vocabulary lessons, will result in a significant increase between pre- and post- test scores among the students.
- Nonetheless, this increase will highlight the importance of morphological understanding and its vital role in the curriculum that is taught in schools.

Methods

- Tallahassee elementary students ranging from 2nd to 5th grade were evaluated to understand how this specific group comprehends vocabulary morphemes and how knowledge in this area can improve overall reading comprehension.
- Children will use interactive practice activities such as semantic/ phonemic clues, word sorts, and manipulating word parts to change word meanings that have been created through Canva. Lessons will also be delivered in English and Spanish via AI technology generated by the program “Synthesia.”
- The majority of this research involved developing pre- and post- tests or lessons for the students to complete.
- The fieldwork entailed recording student answers and assessing their comprehension of the morpheme lesson by comparing the pre- and post- test scores. Rates of enjoyment were also taken from students following the completion of the research.



target word: rebuild



conceptually similar



visually similar



similar-sounding: “ribbon”

Future Considerations

- Promote expansion of curriculum: After more testing, it would be beneficial for the curriculum to not only target children who are bilingual and at risk for disabilities, but also give access to morphological development curriculum to children who have other underlying situations that may make them susceptible to speech disabilities. Some of these situations include children who have a family history of speech disorders, born premature, sensory deficiency, etc.
- Promote parent/teacher contribution
- Educate parents on the benefits of morphological development so they are more enticed to engage in instruction

References

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