<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade-Level Standard</th>
<th>DLM Essential Element</th>
<th>Linkage Levels</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ELA.L.11-12.4.a</td>
<td>ELA.EE.L.11-12.4.a</td>
<td>Initial Precursor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use context (e.g., the overall meaning of a sentence, paragraph, or text; a word’s position or function in a sentence) as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase</td>
<td>Use context to determine the meaning of unknown words</td>
<td>- Can demonstrate a receptive understanding of the property words that describe the objects that accompany familiar games or routines</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Distal Precursor</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- After reading a sentence with clearly defined words, the student is able to recall the stated definition to identify the correct definition of the word when presented with options.</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Proximal Precursor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Can identify what word is missing in a written sentence by using the surrounding words in the sentence and the sentence’s meaning as clues</td>
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<td>Target</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Can infer word meaning using semantic clues in the sentence or paragraph, including restatement, illustrations or examples, similes, metaphors, personification, summary, and cause/effect</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Successor</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Can infer the meaning of a phrase using semantic clues in the sentence or paragraph, including restatement, illustrations or examples, similes, metaphors, personification, and cause/effect</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### How is the Initial Precursor related to the Target?

**Initial Precursor:** Learning to use context (i.e., the surrounding words) to determine the meaning of unknown words requires students to have many words they do know. Teachers can help students expand the number of words they know by focusing on words that describe the objects that are familiar to them. In the context of ELA instruction, teachers can work on this using the DLM Familiar Texts aligned with this Essential Element and linkage level or other texts that feature familiar games and routines. During repeated shared reading of these texts, teachers can gather the objects that match those that appear in the book and work with students to identify the objects that match different descriptions (e.g., red book, small bag).

### How is the Distal Precursor related to the Target?

**Distal Precursor:** Using context to determine the meaning of unknown words requires students to begin to understand the relationship between words in a sentence. One aspect of this is determining which words are being defined, restated, or otherwise supported by the context. For example, an author might use the word "enormous" and then restate and define it in a subsequent sentence, such as, "The enormous watermelon was very, very big." The teacher might ask the students which word means very, very big. Teachers can work on this whenever they encounter words that are subsequently defined, compared with words that have an opposite meaning (e.g., The boy thought his dad would be furious. His dad was not furious. He was happy.), or directly explained in a text.

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A diagram showing the relationship of nodes in the mini-map appears below.

*Key to map codes in upper right corner of node boxes:*

- **IP** Initial Precursor
- **SP** Supporting
- **DP** Distal Precursor
- **S** Successor
- **PP** Proximal Precursor
- **UN** Untested
- **T** Target
ELA.EE.L.11-12.4.a - Use context to determine the meaning of unknown

F-154
Can demonstrate understanding of property words corresponding to the objects used during familiar routines

F-75
Can demonstrate understanding of property words

F-8
Can demonstrate receptive word order

F-23
Can make judgments about the meaning of word(s)

ELA-1211
Can identify an unknown or missing word in familiar text

ELA-172
Can use discourse to enhance the representation of word meaning

ELA-400
Can rely on syntactic clues to determine the meaning of an unknown word when the definition is directly stated in the sentence
ELA-2109
Can use the sentence level context to identify the missing word in a text

ELA-1563
Can use the surrounding context in a text to identify a missing word

ELA-1022
Can rely on syntactic context clues to determine the meaning of an unknown word when the definition is implicit

ELA-1023
Can rely on semantic clues to determine the meaning of a word in context

ELA-1955
Can rely on semantic clues to determine the meaning of a phrase in context