

Tips for Teaching Students Who are Limited English Proficient

Academic Tips

- Provide opportunities for authentic English communication, such as encouraging conversations, role-playing, questioning, and other opportunities to send and receive oral messages.
- Use an expressive voice, gestures, pantomime, objects, and pictures whenever possible in presenting lessons.
- Link instruction to students' cultures.
- Write key words and notes on the board.
- Use flashcards and pictures to build vocabulary.
- Use appropriate computer software to aid in instruction.
- Use listening devices such as tape recorders and language masters to build vocabulary and listening comprehension.
- Develop reading skills by reading to students and by matching materials to meet both language needs and student interests.
- Support vocabulary development by using books that have built-in predictability.
- Use books that have illustrations that support and extend meaning as a springboard for discussions and writing assignments.

Do:

- Speak to the student.
- Ask the student what will help him/her.
- Get to know the student. Be a friend.
- Involve the student in day-to-day activities.
- Remember that language acquisition is a process. Even if the student speaks English, that doesn't mean he/she reads and/or writes English.
- Speak slowly and use simple terms.
- Remember that speaking and listening in English are the first steps. Encourage the student to talk in small groups.
- Use different ways to get across a point. Trust your instincts. Many of the strategies that you already use can be adapted for your ESOL student.
- Look at teaching an ESOL student as an opportunity to celebrate cultural diversity and to build awareness and tolerance.
- When you need help ask your ESOL teacher, ILT or counselor.

Don't:

- Don't ignore the student.
- Don't expect an oral response immediately.
- Don't allow prejudiced behaviors to occur in class.

- Don't overuse detailed worksheets, which for the ESOL students, may be meaningless.
- Don't assess comprehension or performance in the same way as you assess other students.
- Don't try to teach the ESOL student to read before he/she can understand.
- Don't be intimidated or frightened. You will be able to teach these students.