



POLK SCHOOL DISTRICT

Teaching Strategies for the ESOL Student

• Academic Tips

- 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.

Differentiate lessons within the classroom. As long as the same standards are covered, the assignment may differ.

• Do

- Use Annual EL Professional Learning for ideas and understanding
- Ask the student what will help him/her.
- Get to know the student.
- 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.
- 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.

• Don't

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

ACCESS Testing

ACCESS for ELLs is used to determine the English language proficiency levels and progress of ELLs in the domains of speaking, listening, reading, and writing. Results for ACCESS for ELLs is reported in the four domains and proficiency reported in six levels. The six proficiency levels are: Entering (Level 1), Beginning (Level 2), Developing (Level 3), Expanding (Level 4), Bridging (Level 5) and Reaching (Level 6).