

ESL DEPARTMENT NEWS

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ESL DEPARTMENT UPDATE

The ESL Department has wrapped up the administration of the IPT Oral Language Assessments! Diagnostic assessment results were given out at the November 15 ESL Staff Development meeting. Language Support plans were developed for Each student referred to ESL as well as for students who are active in the pull-out program. Teachers are encouraged to adhere to the language support plan developed for each student consistently with the use of strategies that are effective when teaching English language learners. Together we can achieve!



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ESL METHODS

The three methods most commonly used to teach English as a second language (ESL) are **grammar-based**, **communication-based**, and **content-based**. Grammar-based ESL teaches students the rules of English including structure, function and vocabulary. Emphasis is on the why and the how of the language. Communication-based ESL teaches students how to use English in every day, realistic situations. This approach emphasizes practical conversational usage. Content-based ESL teaches students grammar and vocabulary and uses written assignments in order to practice these skills. This approach includes using English as the main method of classroom communication between the teacher and the student and amongst students. This method emphasizes an integrated approach to learning English. A well structured ESL program in a K-12 school incorporates some modicum of all of these.

Special points of interest:

- IPT Oral Language Assessment
- ESL Methods

BEST PRACTICES IN ESL

It is often asked, "What are the ESL strategies? What strategies work for facilitating the learning of ELLs?" The best answer to these questions is that the strategies that work best will vary according to the population of students being served. However as a general rule, any strategy that promotes the student creating or generating authentic, autonomous English communication will produce the greatest language growth. ELLs need to consistently use the language they are trying to acquire.

- Use **Turn & Teach / Turn & Talk strategies** along with question stems during instructional time.
- **Teach students to monitor their thinking** (self question, question each other) questions may be modeled or student generated. Be sure to model and require complete sentences both in question and answers. Question stems can be provided during this time also, until no longer needed.
- **ELLs should know how to discuss what they're learning using academic language.** Help students to put what they are learning into their own words.
- **Provide opportunities for students to address the class and each other in a low stakes learning environment.** No grade, no judgement with each having her/his own time to speak without interruption. Be sure to encourage and celebrate all attempts to use the second language.
- **SCAFFOLD, SCAFFOLD SCAFFOLD!** Scaffold academic language, scaffold questions, scaffold responses and replies, scaffold meta-cognitive strategies, scaffold reading strategies, scaffold everything. Students should feel supported. Help them develop a consistent method of doing things until they no longer need the support. Remember the goal is ALWAYS autonomy! :)
- Finally **encourage your ELLs!** Praise them for their efforts by celebrating small successes. Speak life into them, and assure them that they will succeed.

RESOURCES FOR LANGUAGE PRACTICE

Duolingo– App- Students read, speak, listen, and write in both the native language and second language. Free.

Starfall– Web-based /App– Elementary students can practice phonics, listening, and reading. Free.

Raz-Kids– Web-based/App- Students practice reading fluency, listening, comprehension, and oral reading. Paid.

Readtheory.org– Web-based– Students practice reading comprehension, short grade level quizzes. Free.

Prepdog.org– Web-based– Students can take sample grade level specific MAP tests in preparation for standardized testing. Free.

Pronunciation Power– Web-based/App– Students can listen, record and practice phonetic pronunciation, letter recognition, mouth positioning for English letter sounds. Free.