

Information for ESL and Class teachers of newly arrived students from language backgrounds other than English

What do I do for the first few weeks?



New students from Language Backgrounds other than English should be expected to conform to class rules and take part in general class activities, even when they have no English. Give them the books required in class and include them in the same activities.



LABEL OBJECTS

To help a new arrival find commonly used items around the room. Label with a sentence. e.g. This is the desk. This is 4L's classroom. This is the class library. This is XXXX's desk

Joining In

Use a range of activities that encourage newly arrived ESL students to join in.

Outdoor games that can be played in the playground - skipping, handball, elastics, basketball, soccer.

Indoor games that can be played in class or taken home - chess, cards, bingo, dominoes, board games.

Model language: Hello, Good Morning, Please, Thank you, recess, lunch, Can I play, Can I go..., stand up, sit down, stop, go, line up, Goodbye.

Let the students play!

Puppets, sand play, water play, home corner, dolls, dressing up, Lego, blocks, Mobilo, cars, picture dictionaries, cards, dominoes and magazines.



Literacy

Oral - Involve the children in Picture talks in small groups related to current unit/work
News - have a limited version of news for new arrivals.

Reading - have bilingual books if possible, a reading buddy in English. Let the child listen to illustrated books with tapes.

Translations are available for smile books.

Writing - allow student to write in own language. Parent/relative can conference/translate.



Mathematics

Numeracy - oral counting and operations activities.

The language of functions. Space and Measurement - describing attributes size, shape, colour; comparative language -big, bigger, biggest- relate to real life experiences.

Allow students to use concrete and discuss what they made.



Creative and Practical Arts

Music-singing can be a good way to help the students learn English. Action songs with movement and involvement e.g. Farmer in the dell, Old MacDonald, This Old Man.

Art & Craft-label objects and discuss terminology and tool names.

Drama - sharing mime and drama games can bring class groups together in understanding issues and emotions

Dance - teach dances that are not language intensive but use the vocabulary of dance. e.g. kick, step, shuffle, side to side etc.



PE & SPORT

Involve older students in the school sports program. Encourage the new student to learn to swim if such a program exists within the school.

Remember to explain costs.

In PE give simple instructions e.g. catch, roll, throw, kick, strike, run, hop etc. Ask questions e.g. What am I doing? What are you doing?

Thinking Time



New ESL students need time to become confident speakers of English language in an academic setting. When asking questions give the students time to answer. Say, "I want you to think. I will not ask the first person with their hand up." Wait about 5-7 seconds. This gives the LBOTE students time to form an answer in English.

Still unsure? Call the ESL Consultant for your district for some helpful advice and talk to the ESL Teacher or ESL mentor if you have one.

Television

Tape videos of shows like Play School, Behind the News, Words and Pictures, and other literacy & schools programs. Allow the students to view during the day.

Especially good when they are tired.

Tape recorders and language masters are other useful hardware when teaching newly arrived students with little or no English



SCRAP BOOKS - start a scrap book. This can be divided into categories :- animals, foods, transport, clothes, nature. Once the pictures have been pasted into the appropriate categories they can be labelled with the help of a classmate. This can be an excellent literacy reference for the student when writing.



CREATE A BOX of materials for use in the mainstream classroom for when tasks are too difficult. Include picture & bilingual dictionaries, story tapes & books, computer programs & games.



Computer Studies

Allow the students access to computer Programs such as - Teacher's Pet, Phonics Alive, Where's English, Kid Pix, Computer Links, Computer Classroom. Include word processing programs too.

