

ESOL Classroom Strategies for English Language Learners (ELLs)

Strategy	Description	Suggested Activities
Activate Prior Knowledge	Scaffold new information based on student's past experiences	KWL, BKLW, Prediction, Picture walk, Discussion
Alternative Assessments	Utilize different ways to accurately evaluate/measure student experiences, achievement, and progress	Oral tests, Rubrics, Individual/group projects, Portfolios, Cloze, Self/peer assessment, Student demonstrations, Games, Teacher observation, Conferencing, Checklists, Running records
BRIM (Balanced Rotational Instruction Model)	Balanced literacy program, that links oral and written English language development, and academic development specified in the Sunshine State Standards.	Computer assisted learning, Immediate feedback, Teacher as facilitator, Community Language Learning, Self directed learning, Extensive interaction, Balanced reading, Authentic assessment
Center Activities	Learning centers where students work together or independently to accomplish a learning task	Games, writing, listening, Play groups, readers theater, etc.
Cognitive Academic Language Learning Approach (CALLA)	Methods that enhance academic performance using academic language and strategies	Activate prior knowledge, Emphasis on academic vocabulary in content areas, Identification of study skills, Note taking, Modeling
Community Language Learning Groups	Grouping ELLs to stimulate interaction between students in the target language	Games, Think-pair-share, Challenge and debate
Computer Assisted Instruction (see Technology)	Drill-and-practice, tutorial, or simulation activities on the computer to enhance learning, reinforce skills, and supplement traditional, teacher directed instruction.	Computer Assisted Learning, Language Software programs
Cooperative / Collaborative Learning (also called Temporary skill groups)	Grouping students to accomplish a learning task or activity	Jigsaw, Numbered heads, Interviews, Corners, Information Gap, Games, Think-pair-share, Debates, Reciprocal teaching, Group projects
Critical Thinking Skills	Applying, Analyzing, Synthesizing, & Evaluating many kinds of information	Write test questions Group projects
Drama	Using dramatics to enhance language acquisition	Pantomimes, films, videos, Reader's Theater, Role plays, Movement, Dance, Puppetry, Finger plays, Creative dramatics, Simulation games
Extended Day	Morning, afternoon or evening sessions for tutoring or extra practice before or after the regular school day	Practice skills introduced during the regular day
Flexible Skill Group	Students are grouped and regrouped according to specific goals, activities, and individual needs.	BRIM; Strategies on ESOL website
Graphic Organizers /Thinking Maps	Utilizing pictorial or visual representations that help organize academic information	Venn diagrams, cluster maps, timelines, sequence chains, etc.
Guided Reading or Guided Writing	A teacher supports each reader's development of effective strategies for processing text at increasing levels of difficulty	Reading, writing, and practicing strategies with teacher support
Hands-on Instruction (See Natural Approach)	Learn by doing; experiential learning	Total Physical Response (TPR) Multi-sensory activities (music, dance, art, demonstrations), Language Experience Approach, Alternative assessments
Home (Native) Language Support	Utilizing the ELL's native language to facilitate learning	Native language dictionaries, Bilingual facilitators/aides, Translations, Native language assessments, Native language materials or realia

Strategy	Description	Suggested Activities
Integration of Oral and Written Instruction	Ensure that reading/writing/listening/ speaking mutually support each other.	See: Oral Strategies, Reading Strategies, Writing Strategies
Modification of Text or Curriculum	Adapting the text or curriculum to ensure comprehension	Reduction of non-essential text Outlining, Paraphrasing, Emphasis on main points, Vocabulary review/ review, Audio text
Natural Approach (See Hands on Instruction)	Tailoring activities to student's level of English proficiency	Total Physical Response (TPR) Multi-sensory activities (music, dance, art, demonstrations), Language Experience, Alternative assessments, Authentic materials
Oral Strategies	Activities that enhance listening comprehension, pronunciation, and intonation	Graphic organizers, Paraphrasing, Chunking, Story telling, Read Aloud, Modeling, Backwards Buildup, Visuals, props, gestures; Eliciting responses
Performance-Based Instruction	Three elements: (1) a 'performance' or 'task' specifies what learners are to do; (2) the circumstances and conditions under which learners are to perform the task; (3) how well the task is to be performed	Teach rubric making
Questioning techniques	Specific use of questions to enhance learning	Thinking, Comparing, Elaborating, Predicting, Synthesizing, Evaluating, Question-Answer-Response, Students write test or quiz questions
Reading Strategies	Activities that enhance reading proficiency and comprehension	Graphic organizers, Vocabulary development, Chunking, Guided reading, Read Aloud, Pre-Post reading activities, Prediction, Phonics, Context clues
Small Group Instruction	Students are grouped and regrouped for instruction according to specific goals, activities, and individual needs	See: Cooperative Learning, & Community Language Learning Groups
Spelling Strategies	Activities that support mastery of conventional spelling	Phonetics, Visualization, Structural analysis, Tracing words through a screen, Word families, finding small words in bigger words
Technology (Same as Computer Assisted Instruction)	Drill-and-practice, tutorial, or simulation activities on the computer to enhance learning, reinforce skills, and supplement traditional, teacher directed instruction.	Computer Assisted Learning, Language Software programs
Test-Taking Strategies	Simulated practice for the FCAT and other tests	Rehearse test taking strategies with practice tests
Total Physical Response	Demonstrating comprehension through kinesthetic activities	Charades, other tactile-kinesthetic activities
Tutor/Peer Buddy	Students helping other students	Students help 1-2 other students
Use of Visuals	Making information comprehensible with concrete or pictorial representations	Realia, Pictures, Drawing
Writing Strategies	Activities that enhance writing and expression	Journal writing, Guided writing, Process writing, Modeling and shared writing, Language Experience Approach, RAFT

Please visit the Multicultural Education Website at <http://www.palmbeachschools.org/multicultural/>