



ELL Tips 4 Teachers

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Teachers reaching out to teachers...We're all in this together!

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First Day of School



The first day of the new school year is a critical one for teachers. With careful planning, you will create a good first impression and be prepared to handle unexpected events. Here are some tips as you plan for the first day of school.

■ Greet students at the door and direct them to their seats.

This simple act ensures that students enter the classroom in an orderly fashion and allows you to make immediate contact with each student.

■ Introduce yourself to students and learn their names as quickly as possible.

Knowing the names of your students enables you to make a personal connection. Calling students by name helps to build positive relationships and allows you to deal promptly with misbehavior.

■ Introduce students to one another.

Create an enjoyable way for students to meet each other and feel comfortable participating in class activities.

■ Teach procedures that are needed immediately and present your rules for behavior.

Teach your procedures and rules just as you would any content area. Procedures related to students' personal needs (such as where to store belongings and how to get the teacher's attention) should be explained and practiced immediately. Then introduce your rules and provide students an opportunity to discuss the meaning of the rules. Give specific examples. Helping students understand the rationale behind the rules encourages student buy-in and cooperation.

■ Introduce students to the classroom.

Acquaint students with the room by describing each area and how it will be used. When students know where to go and where to find things, it helps eliminate disturbing interruptions and unnecessary questions.

■ Lead a learning activity that is simple and fun.

Plan an introductory lesson that will create interest in your subject. Including an appropriate academic activity on the first day sends the signal that your classroom is a place for learning and a place where students will be productive and successful.

■ Plan for maximum contact with students.

Consider using whole class instruction in order to have maximum contact with all students. Move around the room to establish your presence, and stay with the class unless it is absolutely necessary to leave the room. In short, be courteous, available, visible, and in charge.

Quick Tips for ELLs in Your Classroom

Pair a newcomer with a partner who speaks the same primary language.

When newcomers enter a mainstream classroom where the teacher does not speak their first language, they're often overwhelmed. An excellent way to support these newcomers is to assign them a first-language buddy. The buddy can introduce the new student to classroom routines. It's important to make the position of being a buddy one of prestige. Let students know that they were chosen because of their welcoming spirit and their special bilingual abilities.

Allow ELL students to talk in their primary languages.

Some teachers believe that prohibiting students from speaking in their first language will encourage them to use more English. But just the opposite is true. When students cannot speak English, they often become silent and disengaged from what is happening in the classroom. You can keep students engaged by grouping together students who speak the same first language, having them use the language to clarify concepts for each other as they complete their tasks in English.

Follow a daily routine.

Follow a daily routine and post your schedule using graphics or a rebus format if possible. When students know what to expect of their day, they are more comfortable.

Place responsibility for learning on the students.

Keeping supplies, math manipulative materials, and reference books within reach of the students enables them to access what they need on their own.

Learn all you can about the student's culture.

In some cultures, it is considered rude to look directly at a teacher when spoken to. In other cultures, there are religious beliefs that prohibit participation in activities we take for granted. Check out the culture of your ELL students on the net and you will probably have a really good idea on why they act as they do in your classroom.

Quick Facts on ELLs at CCSD

- The projected amount of students for October, 2009, is 65,366 which is up approximately 3,000 students from October, 2008.



- There are currently 143 countries represented as ELL learners.
- The top ten languages spoken are:

*Spanish (90.37%)

*Tagalog (3.65%)

*Filipino (1.54%)

*Chinese-Zhongwen (1.18%)

*Vietnamese (0.88%)

*Korean (0.79%)

*Thai (0.45%)

*Arabic (0.45%)

*Chinese-Chaozhou (0.36%)

*Japanese (0.32%)

Statistics retrieved from:

http://www.ccsd.net/ellp/Statistics/Languages/Top_10_Languages.pdf