

English as a Second Language



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"Readiness Activities for Preschoolers"
Pocono Elementary Center
March 2011

English Language Learners in U.S. Schools Ages 5-17

- 1992-1993 2.7 million children
- 2002-2003 5 million children
- 2005-2009* 7.8 million children

* Estimate US Census

Pennsylvania

- "There are approximately 42,542 students in Pennsylvania who are Limited English Proficient (LEP) speaking 175 different languages" (PDE, 2008).
- Title 22, Chapter 4, Section 4.26 of the Curriculum Regulations currently states, "Every school district shall provide a program for each student whose dominant language is not English for the purpose of facilitating the student's achievement of English proficiency and the academic standards under § 4.12" (PDE, 2001).

ESL Demographics in PMSD

2010-11

- 414 ESL Served students
- 1399 PHLOTES
- 55 different languages



English as a Second Language (ESL) Policy in PA

- A Home Language Survey is completed by the parent/guardian upon school registration and is the screening tool used in PA to identify students with ESL needs.
- When a language other than English is indicated on the form, the child may be assessed by a certified ESL teacher using a placement assessment (e.g.: W-APT, LAS, LAS Links).
- Parents/guardians will be notified of their child's eligibility for services, placement in the ESL program, level of English proficiency, method of instruction, and exit criteria.

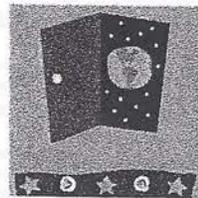


ESL Exit Policy

A. Score of BASIC on the annual Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA)

B. Scores of 5.0 on a Tier C ACCESS for ELLs assessment

C. Additional Exit Criteria:
Final report card grades of C or better in core subject areas.
Scores on district-wide assessments that are comparable to the BASIC performance level on the PSSA.



ESL Basics at PMSD

- ESL
 - is "core" curriculum
 - may replace LA/English/Reading
 - curriculum has been developed according to PA ESL Standards
 - English only program
 - pull-out and push-in
- ESL is not "Special Education"
- ESL students may receive
 - Learning Support/Speech services
 - Reading/Math support
 - Gifted/Talented instruction

Challenges for English Language Learners

Language Proficiency
academic/social issues

Poverty
low-paying wages for parents
lack of health care
housing
higher drop-out rates for teens

Social Adaptation
racism/discrimination
isolation in new community
loss of identity, friends, culture
role-reversal w/parents
parents working two jobs
"too Americanized"
parents often lack education



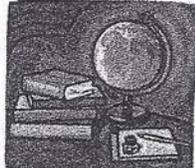
Basic Interpersonal Communication Skills (BICS)

- First 6 months-2 years of introduction
- Development of language skills needed in meaningful social situations
 - playground
 - lunch room
 - parties



Cognitive Academic Language Proficiency (CALPS)

- Academic Learning
 - 5-7 years with support
 - 7-10 years without support
- Subject area/content material
 - Content area vocabulary
 - Higher Level Skills- e.g. comparing/contrasting



Stages of Second Language Acquisition

- **Stage I: Preproduction Silent Period (500 words)**
Receptive language may be stronger than expressive language
Understand and duplicate gestures
Build vocabulary with lots of repetition
- **Stage II: Early production (1000 words)**
May last six months
Vocabulary is more developed
Accept one or two-word responses
- **Stage III: Speech emergence (3000 words)**
May ask simple questions
Initiate brief conversations with classmates
May understand simple stories with pictures and repetition
- **Stage IV: Intermediate fluency (6000 words)**
Ask more complex questions, able to express opinions
- **Stage V: Advanced Fluency (4-10 years)**
Near native ability language skills

Hints for Teaching ELLs

- Keep your voice at an even volume
- Determine Background knowledge
- Make learning meaningful and relevant
- Teach vocabulary using real objects/pictures
- Use gestures with discretion
- Model and demonstrate
- Point to objects
- Draw pictures
- Present materials in a variety of modalities
- Use "Thinking Maps" (concept maps)
- Summarize and review often

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"Communicating effectively is a significant social skill that contributes to young children's school readiness, social adjustment, and academic success."
Chen & Shire, 2011

Activities to Promote Communication in
Preschool Classrooms for ELLs

Movement/action-based activities

- Nursery rhymes
- Acting out stories
- Repeating predictable text
- Finger plays and songs
- Role-playing
- Games: hopping, jumping, skipping

Activities to Promote Communication in
Preschool Classrooms for ELLs

Oral language Skills/vocabulary

Greetings	Numbers
Basic commands	Feelings
Family words	Food
Body Parts	Colors
School objects	Nature
Clothing	Animals
Shapes	Toys
Home items	Weather words

Activities to Promote Communication in
Preschool Classrooms for ELLs

Use Visuals

- Posters
- Charts
- Picture books
- Educational Computer Games
- Educational videos e.g.: Sesame Street, Reading Between the Lions, Blues Clues, Barney, Dora the Explorer

Assessments

- Video & Audio Journals
- Photographs
- Thinking Maps/graphic organizers
- Other pictorial products-drawings
- Oral retelling
- Small group/partner activities
- Portfolio
- Demonstrations
- Computer programs—Study Island, Starfall, RAZ Kids

Teacher Resources

- Favorite ESL teacher ☺
- Parent volunteers
- Student volunteers
- Peer or adult tutors
- <http://www.pde.state.pa.us/esl>
- <http://www.everythingsl.net>
- <http://www.ncela.gwu.edu>
- <http://tesol.org>