

Suggestions for English-Language Learners ♥

- Use multimedia such as pictures, drawings, videos, concrete objects and props to create connections with vocabulary words.
- Utilize dictation and dramatization.
- Use gestures and body language.
- Speak slowly and enunciate clearly without raising your voice.
- Repeat information and review. Rephrase information using short sentences and simpler syntax.
- Avoid idioms, slang words, creative words, silly words, and words with multiple meanings. Be consistent with word usage and directions to help children learn to understand and predict expectations.
- Anticipate words that might be unfamiliar and give explicit meanings for them.
- Make use of the excellent language learning that occurs among children by supporting play and small-group activities.
- Make sure the classroom contains a variety of books, pictures, props and decorations affirming children's family experiences and their cultural and linguistic backgrounds.
- Demonstrate your appreciation of children's efforts to learn a new language.
- Use communication boards for all children in the dramatic play area. (All levels of verbal abilities will benefit from exposure to print, visual cues, expanded vocabulary and types of phrases expressed).

References

Neuman, S., Copple, C., Bredekamp, S. (2000). *Learning to read and write: Developmentally appropriate practices for young children*. Washington, D.C.: National Association for the Education of Young Children.