



Tips

For Educators of ELLs in Grades: 4-12

Teaching Vocabulary

For parents of First Graders

Teach vocabulary in an **EXPLICIT, SYSTEMATIC WAY.**

Choose the vocabulary that your students most need to know in order to support their reading development and content-area learning. Plan for repeated exposures to ensure mastery. When introducing new vocabulary, be sure to provide student-friendly definitions for words important to the task at hand.

Teach vocabulary **THEMATICALLY.**

Organized vocabulary around a common theme.

Teach vocabulary by focusing on **common root words and affixes to expand word knowledge.**

TEACH AND BUILD ACADEMIC VOCABULARY. PREVIEW, PREVIEW, PREVIEW! LEARNING ABOUT

Learning about roots, prefixes and suffixes is a great way to reinforce and expand ELLs' understanding of English words. Breaking the words down into smaller pieces makes unfamiliar words more comprehensible.

Capitalize on **cognates**

Teach students to make the connection between words that are the same or similar in English and in their primary language. This is an easy way to improve both vocabulary and reading comprehension.



Research shows that vocabulary development is one of the most important skills English Language Learners (ELLs) must acquire to become English-proficient. Here are some strategies to help you get started!

Preview, preview, preview!


Before reading, teach essential vocabulary and preview the content. "Walk" through the book or chapter, looking at the pictures and demonstrating how the previewed vocabulary is used in context; vocabulary is learned best through meaningful





Teach and build academic vocabulary.

English language learners need continued instruction in academic vocabulary as they encounter new subjects and new ideas at the high school level. Work with colleagues to identify and teach the vocabulary that ELLs need to become successful readers and learners in each of their other classes.

 **Give your child lots of opportunities to read aloud. Inspire your young reader to practice every day! The tips below offer some fun ways you can help your child become a happy and confident reader. Try a new tip each week. See what works best for your child.**

Don't leave home without it.

Bring along a book or magazine any time your child has to wait, such as at a doctor's office. Always try to t in reading!

Once is not enough.

Encourage your child to re-read favorite books and poems. Re-reading helps kids read more quickly and accurately.

Dig deeper into the story.

Ask your child questions about the story you've just read. Say something like, "Why do you think Clifford did that?"

Take control of the television.

It's difficult for reading to compete with TV and video games. Encourage reading as a free-time activity.

Be patient.

When your child is trying to sound out an unfamiliar word, give him or her time to do so. Remind child to look closely at the first letter or letters of the word.

Pick books that are at the right level.

Help your child pick books that are not too difficult. The aim is to give your child lots of successful reading experiences.

Play word games.

Have your child sound out the word as you change it from mat to fat to sat; from sat to sag to sap; and from sap to sip.

I read to you, you read to me.

Take turns reading aloud at bedtime. Kids enjoy this special time with their parents.

Gently correct your young reader.

When your child makes a mistake, gently point out the letters he or she overlooked or read incorrectly. Many beginning readers will guess wildly at a word based on its first letter.

Talk, talk, talk!

Talk with your child every day about school and things going on around the house. Sprinkle some interesting words into the conversation, and build on words you've talked about in the past.

Write, write, write!

Ask your child to help you write out the grocery list, a thank you note to Grandma, or to keep a Journal of special things that happen at home. When writing, encourage your child to use the letter and sound patterns he is learning at school.

