

Working with Low Level English Language Learners

Literacy Volunteers Charlottesville/Albemarle

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Start with Need to Know Information

For life

- My name is _____.
- My address is _____.
- I speak _____.
- I need help.
- Please call (911, my family member, etc.).

For class

- I do not understand.
- Can you slow down?
- Can you repeat that?
- How do you say _____?
- What is this called?
- How do you spell that?

Use realistic and authentic materials

- Clocks
- Calendars
- Color photos
- Models
- Maps
- Menus
- Sales flyers

Teach in small chunks

- Don't overload your student
- Trying to cover 6 pages in the book in two hours is counterproductive
- Focus on a series of small tasks

Limit written information

- If your student has no connection to writing in any language, "writing it down" won't be as helpful to him/her as it is to someone who is educated
- Find a way that is more meaningful.
 - What do they do to remember things?
 - How can you connect their own method of learning to English?

Engage multiple senses

- Sight
 - Text
 - Pictures
 - Graphics
- Sound
 - Listening to the teacher
 - Recordings or videos
 - Singing & rhymes
 - Clapping to indicate syllable stress

Engage multiple senses

- Touch
 - Handling objects
 - Describing the feel
 - Making/building things
 - Describing shapes
 - Rearranging objects
- Taste & Smell
 - Food, spices
 - Flowers, perfume
- Actions
 - Moving about
 - Gestures
 - Physical games

S D R E I R

For those who are interested, this letter group can produce:
6 -- 3-letter words,
10 -- 4-letter words,
6 -- 5-letter words, and
2 -- 6-letter words.

Source: TextTwist

Avoid teaching grammar terms

Use color to reinforce ideas

- Highlighters
- Colored index cards
- Colored photos

<u>Nouns</u>	<u>Verbs</u>	<u>Prepositions</u>	<u>Adjectives</u>	<u>Adverbs</u>
dog	throws	to	the	not
girl	pets	in	a/an	very
house	hits	with	large	really
ball	walks	by	brown	only

Allow time to process

- Hear/read the sentence in English
- Translate into first language
- Develop a response
- Translate response to English
- Realize that they don't know the English words for half the words in their response
- Rephrase response using known vocabulary
- Say response

Teach the same material in different ways



Repeat & revisit

And finally....

A smile is the most important tool in your toolbox.
