

FROM STRUGGLING TO SUCCEEDING: STRATEGIES FOR SUPPORTING ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS IN THE ELEMENTARY CLASSROOM

by:

Jayvie R. Ablazo

Teacher I, Camachile Elementary School

Assistance for English language learners (ELLs) in the elementary classroom is vital for their academic achievement. ELLs are students whose primary language is not English and may face challenges in understanding and communicating in the classroom. Nevertheless, with appropriate strategies and support, ELLs can excel in the classroom and attain academic excellence.

One efficient method of supporting ELLs is to offer them additional language assistance. This can involve hiring a bilingual educator or giving ELLs access to a bilingual teacher or language mentor. Furthermore, by providing ELLs with supplementary language instruction, such as English as a Second Language (ESL) classes, they can enhance their language skills and comprehend classroom instruction better.

Another significant approach for supporting ELLs is to furnish them with visual aids and alternative forms of nonverbal communication. ELLs may have difficulties understanding verbal instructions, therefore providing them with visual aids, like pictures, diagrams, and videos, can aid in their comprehension of the material being taught. Additionally, using gestures and other forms of nonverbal communication, like pointing to objects or using facial expressions, can assist ELLs in understanding what is being communicated.

Another vital tactic for supporting ELLs is to apply culturally responsive teaching methods. This means being conscious of the cultural backgrounds of ELLs and how they could influence their learning. By being aware of various cultures and utilizing culturally

responsive teaching methods, educators can establish an inclusive and welcoming classroom atmosphere.

It is also crucial to offer ELLs opportunities to participate in the classroom. For instance, giving ELLs the chance to lead discussions or presentations can aid them in building confidence in their language capabilities and feel more relaxed speaking in front of their peers. Furthermore, by providing ELLs with opportunities to work in small groups or pairs, they can practice their language skills in a more supportive and less stressful environment.

Lastly, it is crucial to maintain regular communication with the parents of ELLs. This can involve organizing parent-teacher conferences to discuss the child's progress and providing parents with resources and knowledge on how they can aid their child's language development at home.

References:

Ramsaran, N (2022 August 5). 4 effective strategies for supporting newcomer English learners. Edutopia. <https://www.edutopia.org/article/4-effective-strategies-supporting-newcomer-english-learners>