

W

hen you know your students and build a good rapport, they are more likely to want to learn and improve, even if learning a language is difficult. Students learn faster from people they like and that they feel care for them, too!



DID YOU KNOW?

It may take 6 months for a student to have basic conversational skills, one to two years to have proficiency in conversations in most situations, but their academic language proficiency only comes after

5 YEARS!

Angela Jurgensen

<https://www.soupteacher.com/ell-post-grad.html>

References:

The 6 principles for Exemplary Teaching of English Learners
<https://www.tesol.org/the-6-principles/the-6-principles>



ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS AND YOU

TIPS AND TRICKS
TO MAKE LEARNING JOYFUL



1

GET TO KNOW YOUR LEARNERS

Your ESL student's language barrier does not correlate with their academic ability. Many students who arrive in Canada were high achieving in their home countries. They have passions, gifts and talents that can help bridge the native language with their second language much easier.

Making connections between their interests and their home country to what is found here helps introduce the local culture to students.

At the same time, many students experienced trauma in their home countries. Their basic needs are just starting to be fulfilled. Learning a new language can prove overwhelming at first for these students. Patience and empathy will go a long way, as well as counselling when needed.

 **TIP:** Turn your classroom into a true multicultural setting by adding flags and greetings in other languages. Encourage sharing of cultures through group projects that highlight student's backgrounds.

2

CREATE A SAFE ENVIRONMENT

Your room, your materials and the way you address the students can all have an impact on their learning. Supporting the students' social and emotional needs is crucial!

At the same time, maintaining high expectations shows the student that learning the language matters to you. Make sure to emphasize the benefits of learning the language well. This will only help them in the long run!

 **TIP:** Add a translation station to your classroom! Google translate can make your ESL student feel safe and able to communicate with you as well as peers.



3

SCAFFOLD LESSONS FOR EASY ACCESS

Before academic lessons can be fully comprehended by the ELL student, the way we break down the lessons becomes very important.

Scaffolding helps the student grow in understanding; gestures, visuals, simple words and using the student's first language, all help create entry points for learning. Multimedia, audio books, picture dictionaries and modeling the appropriate language are also important tools.

Allowing students to grow in their ability to express themselves is key to their learning. When students have access to scaffolded lessons throughout the curriculum, in all subjects, they have a much better chance of success and a better chance to prove their knowledge, which may be simply obfuscated by their current language barrier.

 **TIP:** Print and laminate visuals related to the subject you are working on. The image of a volcano with the word "volcano", for instance, can help the student connect with the subject. Save these relevant word kits to use year after year.

