

Welcoming Newcomers: Tips for Specialists and Classroom Teachers

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Strategies for Welcoming Newcomers

As a specialist...

- use songs that teach vocabulary and/or use actions
- start every lesson with a greeting (don't be afraid to repeat these again and again!)
- use visuals and realia
- have students do an "About Me" project, poster, presentation, etc.
- have students draw to communicate
- collaborate with classroom teachers as much as possible
- observe newcomers in their mainstream classes to gather information for yourself and the classroom teacher

As a classroom teacher...

- include ELL students in all classroom activities
- assign a buddy to new students (better if the buddy speaks the same language as the student)
- have students show what they know, even if they have to draw or act out an answer
- make use of your district's technology--even if the technology is at another school or for another level
- advocate for your students
 - Students may need reading support or other support in addition to ESL
- select vocabulary words that will help ELL students across the curriculum
- make your class a family--all students should feel welcome!

Free Technology Resources

iPad Apps	Websites
Bitsboard Vocabulary Builder 1&2 Little Speller ABC Alphabet Phonics ABC's Writer Hooked on Phonics Meet the Vowels See.Touch.Learn Reading Comprehension: Grades K-1 Puppet Pals	Xtra Math www.xtramath.org TenMarks www.tenmarks.org Vocabulary Spelling City* www.spellingcity.com DuoLingo* www.duolingo.com Google Drive* www.drive.google.com Google Translate* www.translate.google.com Quizlet* www.quizlet.com Overdrive* www.overdrive.com YouTube* www.youtube.com (Harry Kindergarten) BrainPop* www.brainpop.com Daily Starter http://www.scholastic.com/teachers/daily-starter/teacher *denotes corresponding iPad app