

ESOL Students

The Epping School District has several ESOL (English Speakers of Other Languages) students at the elementary and middle high school. It is important to use the best teaching strategies for these students.

- A **quiet one-to-one conversation** with the student will help you get a sense of the student's listening and speaking abilities in English. If that's not possible, **try to check in with the student once the class is engaged in guided or independent work.**
- Instead of directly calling on an ESOL student, try using **small group interactions and pair/share responses.**
- **Visuals (pictures, diagrams, graphic organizers)** can really help build understanding.
- Use activities such as **Think, Pair, Share** to encourage students to talk and process information together.
- Pre-teach **vocabulary**, if possible. Write the word and explain it simply and using visuals. [Vocabulary Four Square](#) is a great resource!
- Try to give **short directions** that are 1 to 2 steps rather than complex, multiple step directions.
- **Pair** ESOL students with a student who is academically strong *and* a good role model.

Please TRY:

- To speak quietly, one-on-one with the ESOL student to check understanding.
- Using pictures, written words as well as spoken instructions.
- To **avoid using idioms** like, “**You’ll get the hang of that!**”
- Not to change class routine suddenly.

Other appropriate modifications

- Provide an outline before a lecture, complete with vocabulary terms for the lesson
- Provide extra time to complete tests. ESOL students may need additional time to respond, especially for written answers.

Resource books

Multicultural Manners by Norine Dresser available from the ESOL Teacher. This book provides sensitive insights into many cultures.

Helpful Links

[Colorin Colorado](#) - General overview of ESOL, teaching tips, student/parent concerns

[A Guide to Teaching English](#) - Interesting site to explore ESOL education from various viewpoints (student, teacher, parent)

[Teachers First](#) - This website offers concrete strategies for helping ESOL students

[WIDA](#) - This site explains language development, provides examples of what students can do based on their level of language development.

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