
How do classroom teachers help my child?

The ESL teacher keeps the classroom teacher informed of what the student can do in English. The teacher gives the student extra help, shortened assignments, or other modifications as needed. You will receive a report on these modifications with the student's grade card. If a student speaks no English, the teacher will often ask only that the student watch, listen, and copy. The student may show understanding by pointing to a picture, or answering yes/no questions. Sometimes a beginning student will be given an English learning or beginning reader activity instead of the work other students are doing.

When the student reaches a higher level, they will often be asked to go ahead and try, and ask questions when they don't understand. Mistakes do not count against their grade, but are seen as learning opportunities.

On statewide testing ELLs receive special accommodations if needed. The results do not affect their promotion to the next grade. The student only needs to show progress from one test to the next.

Field Trips:

Field Trips are an important part of the school curriculum, but we cannot let your child go unless you sign the permission form.

If your child receives free lunches, field trips are also paid for. If you do not want your child to go on the trip, he/she still needs to come to school. There will be arrangements for classes for those who are not going, including ESL.

How can I help with my child's homework?

Give your child a quiet time and a quiet place to do homework. Check your child's folder or planner to see if the teacher has sent you any messages, and what your child's homework is. Your child should try to do the homework the best he/she can.

Usually, students bring books from the library or classroom that they need to read. This is part of their homework, to read books on their reading level. If possible, someone at home should listen to the child read each book two times. If your child is already reading chapter books, encourage him/her to tell you what happened in each chapter.

How can I send notes to the teacher?

Send notes in the child's homework folder or planner. The teacher will check this every day. EXAMPLES:

My child needs help with homework.

My child will be a car rider today.

I will pick my child up early today.

My child will need to miss a day of school for an important appointment

My child will be late for school due to an important religious occasion.

I need to meet with you concerning my child.

My child was sick the last two days.

I lost the important form I needed to sign. Please send another one.

How Can I Help My Child Learn English?

FOR BILINGUAL OR MULTILINGUAL FAMILIES



Calendar and Helpful Websites:

Go to www.jcschools.org. You will find the school calendar and weather-related school closings here. Under schools, find the faculty. Find your child's teacher or under Special Areas, find me, the ESL teacher. We have links on our pages where you can find more learning activities for your child.

ESL: English as a Second Language - the class

ELL: English Language Learner - the student



I spoke only my parents' language until I came to America. I can do work on my grade level in my language, but in English, I am a beginner.



I was born in America and started learning English in preschool. I can speak both languages, but can't translate from one language to the other.



I understand when my parents speak to me in their language, but I only speak English.



I already speak two languages, but I don't read them. English reading and writing is hard for me.

Who is tested?

1. First Language was not English
2. Usually speaks another language outside of school
3. English is not the first language of the parents



Results

1. Parents will be notified if student needs or does not need ESL.
2. ESL classes will be one hour a day or less, depending on the student's level.
3. You will receive progress reports in the student's grade card.

What do students learn in ESL?

1. LISTENING: Understanding what is said in social situations, in the classroom and in instructional media on the child's grade level
2. SPEAKING: Vocabulary; asking and answering questions; retelling stories; giving an opinion and reasons why; using academic words correctly
3. READING: Phonics, grammar, comprehension of texts on their level, reading fluency
4. WRITING: Letters, words, sentences, paragraphs, essays; Students use writing to show how to use their new vocabulary

I want my child to be bilingual

Speak and read to your child in your language. Teach preschoolers about letters and sounds in your language.

Listen to your child read aloud to you in English.

Translate whole sentences by general meaning, not word for word. Use language as real communication.



I want my child to be like other Americans

Almost all Americans have ancestors who came here from another country. Students often learn in school about these different cultures. Your child has something to share, just like others.

Many students leave the classroom for special instruction, even gifted students.

Many students speak another language at home, even those not in ESL.

Participate in school activities with other families, and you will be seen as another American family.