

Do's and Don'ts for Classrooms with Second Language Learners

Do

- ☺ use a variety of strategies
- ☺ use pictures, realia (real stuff), and models
- ☺ use heterogenous grouping
- ☺ mix English language learners and English speakers
- ☺ plan student centered activities everyday
- ☺ clearly state and write objectives
- ☺ identify language objectives for each lesson / unit
- ☺ focus on grade level TEKS
- ☺ provide many opportunities to practice and apply new skills and knowledge
- ☺ model what you want the students to do
- ☺ expect the ELL to produce work in English at his or her level
- ☺ create a safe environment that promotes risk taking

Don't

- ☹ compromise grade level expectations
- ☹ put all non English speakers in a single group
- ☹ give an ELL a "sympathy 70"
- ☹ have a teacher centered classroom
- ☹ translate everything into Spanish
- ☹ depend on another student to translate everything
- ☹ insist that ELLs participate in whole group activity if it makes them uncomfortable
- ☹ punish a student for not speaking English