

Appropriate Use of Students' Native Language in an ESOL Program

Basic Premises

- Development of the first language lays a foundation for the learning of a second language.
- Use of the first language provides access to schema, allows for clarification, and supports a comfortable affective learning environment.
- In conjunction with thoughtful and deliberate planning, students can be grouped homogeneously based on native language to facilitate effective instruction.

	Use of Students' Native Language by Teachers:	Use of Students' Native Language by Paraprofessionals:	Native Language Use by Students:
<i>Why do it?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To encourage and support development of the native language in the home ▪ To establish routines and rules for newcomers ▪ To respond to emergency needs ▪ To decrease affective filter and help students feel comfortable ▪ To develop schema 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To respond to emergency needs ▪ To facilitate parent communication 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Supports meta-cognitive growth in native language while student learns English ▪ Elicits better thinking and MORE English ▪ Values the student as a thinker while valuing the native language ▪ Helps eliminate resentment of English by making a place for the native language
<i>How to do it.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Quick check for understanding-NOT simultaneous translation ▪ As a means of concept reinforcement – bridge background knowledge to English content instruction; allow for the use of higher order thinking skills in the native language ▪ I:I situations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Make connections between students' background knowledge and English content instruction ▪ Preview-review lessons (These have been previously planned by teacher) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Think-Pair-Share, or small group work to clarify or develop particular concepts ▪ Discuss topics/concepts to be covered in school with family at home ▪ Make connections to native language cognates ▪ Convey individual needs or concerns with teacher ▪ Self-talk

Encouraging Continued Development of the Native Language Outside of the Classroom

By Parents:

- Read to and with children
- Discuss family activities together
- Develop thinking skills by questioning
- Discuss topics/concepts to be covered in school
- Collaborate with classroom teacher to enhance student's language and academic skills
- Request support from classroom teacher

Native Language Materials:

- Supplemental to English instructional materials- NOT in place of
- For use in conjunction with concept reinforcement instruction
- For use at home to develop/continue literacy skills and to develop content concepts covered in school
- Use public library for non-school scheduled time frame