



READING WITH STUDENTS WHO ARE ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS (ELLs)*

Research shows that using an individual's home language can be an effective strategy that increases comprehension while also validating the person's identity.

You don't need to be able to speak another language to be effective...

Kids are usually happy to see you making an effort. Children also love to "teach" adults, so let them show you words in their home language so you can learn together!

RESEARCH-BASED TIPS AND TRICKS

- When you are reading, reinforce learning by modeling correct pronunciation.
- When the student is reading, only correct them if the error directly interferes with meaning.
- Ask the student to point to pictures or act out some of the vocabulary in the book
- When you are reading, think aloud about the book and stop occasionally to summarize what you have read so far.
- Ask questions that require a short answer and are fairly literal. More advanced ELLs may be able to answer more open-ended questions about what they are reading and/or provide an opinion about the text.
- If the student seems comfortable, ask them to retell a story back to you after reading it together. Don't force it!
- Use gestures to assist in communication with your student and emphasize important parts of the story.

Remember: Letter sounds may be different in a child's home language.

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