

English as an Additional Language/Dialect Helping your child to learn English

Many parents want to help their child or children with their English but are not sure what they can do to help. In fact the best way for families to support children learning English is to maintain the child's first language at home. You do not have to talk in English to help your child learn English. It is more important for you to use the language that you can use best and are most comfortable speaking. By doing this you can provide models of grammatically correct sentences and access to a wide vocabulary. It can also help if you refer to the name of the language when you speak in that language to your child. This helps them to make connections between their different languages.

What to expect when children are learning a second language?

Many children become silent when first exposed to a second language. This silent period can last months and can be important in developing understanding. It is normal for children who are learning a new language to mix the two languages and to make mistakes.

The four broad levels below are used at school to track students' progress in English use and understanding. A student's progression through these levels varies according to individual needs and factors.

Beginning English (Progress Map Levels 1-2)

This level describes students new to learning Standard Australian English (SAE) who begin to understand and experiment with short, simple language structures. Students begin to develop social language. The learning environment is supportive and clearly structured. Teaching should focus on developing both social and academic language. Students are not pressured to produce English.

Developing English (Progress Map Levels 3-4)

At this level students are developing overall understandings of SAE and continue to experiment with using less formulaic and more innovative language structures. Students become more equipped to understand and use English in a range of learning contexts. Teachers encourage active engagement and provide a range of ways for students to demonstrate their learning.

Functional English (Progress Map Levels 5-6)

This level describes students who are extending and consolidating their use and understanding of Standard Australian English. They are gaining the confidence and skills needed to use English independently in a variety of learning and social situations. Students continue to be monitored closely by their teachers.

Competent English (Progress Map Levels 7-8)

Students at this level can competently use English in most social and learning situations. They are confident about their ability to communicate in English. Their production of English continues to be characterised by their Home Language and cultural understandings. Ongoing evaluation supports students' progress.

Here are some strategies and resources to help your child to practice their English at home. There is no expectation that they should do this but if they are enthusiastic and wanting to practice it is best to do it in an enjoyable, non pressured way.

- Read to your children often. Make it enjoyable.
- Support their home reading by setting up a daily routine to listen to your child read from their home readers.
- Help your child to build their English Vocabulary-label objects around the home and talk about what you see when out and about, in your home language and in English.
- Feel free to ask your child's classroom teacher about current learning topics (eg. Science topics) so you can discuss these with your child in their first language.

Online Resources

These sites are not endorsed by Subiaco Primary School. They are merely links to some online resources that you may find suitable to use at home.

http://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/earlyyears/supporting_children_learning_esl.pdf

This document, *Supporting Children Learning English as a Second Language in the Early Years (birth to six years)* has a particular focus on children in the three to six years age group and supports children's transition into school.

<http://readingeggs.com.au/>

ABC Reading Eggs makes learning to read interesting and engaging for kids, with great online reading games and activities.

<http://www.starfall.com/>

Mainly online reading activities for younger learners.

<http://www.english-4kids.com/>

Printable ESL Worksheets, Games for ESL Classrooms, EFL Videos Tutorials, Powerpoint Lessons, Interactive Vocabulary & Grammar Activities.

<http://www.esl-kids.com/>

<http://www.eslflashcards.com/>

Printable flashcards to build vocabulary.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks2/>

From Britain, this website has different interactive stories and games.

<http://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/en/>

LearnEnglish Kids has lots of free online [games](#), [songs](#), [stories](#) and [activities](#) for children to have fun and learn English too.

http://www.usq.edu.au/users/sonjb/projects/web_reviews/websites.asp

ESL/EFL Website Reviews (for older learners) from the University of Southern Queensland

<http://www.manythings.org/e/easy.html>

Interactive Vocabulary games (no sound required)

<http://translate.reference.com/>

A website that can be used for the translation of words.

English Oral Learning and Practise at Home

Greetings:

Hello

What's your name?

My name is _____

Hello. How are you today?

I'm fine thank you.

Good morning

Good afternoon

Goodbye

Bye bye

Personal Details:

Where do you live? I live at _____

What is your telephone number? My phone number is _____

How old are you? I am _____. I am _____ years old.

Are you a boy or a girl? I am a _____.

Do you have a brother or a sister? I have two brothers and three sisters. – Mother, father, aunt, uncle, grandparents etc.

Manners:

Yes please

No thank you

Colour:

What is this colour?

Show me the blue pen.

Give me the orange pencil please.

Bring me the _____ bag please.

This is a purple coat.

pink

red

blue

orange

black

white

green

yellow

grey

purple

Days of the week:

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Body Parts:

Head

Leg

Nose

Teeth

Ankle

Chest

Finger nails

Eye lashes

neck

hair

ears

tummy

foot

back

feet

shoulders

face

mouth

knee

eyebrow

thumb

hands

arm

eyes

lips

elbow

toes

fingers

tongue

Objects:

This is a/the/your/my
Show me
Bring me
Give me
May I borrow

pencil
coloured pencil
book
ruler
scissors
paint
hat
drink bottle
door

pen
textas
paper
rubber
school bag
crayons
lunch box
chair
window

School Words:

May I go to the toilet please?

May I get a drink please?

Office
Lunchtime
Classroom
Staff room
Playground
Undercover Area

Principal
Recess
Physical Education
Music
Spelling
Oval

Teacher
Home time
Drama
Maths
Art

Library
Sport
Reading
Science

Clothes:

What are you wearing today?

I am wearing my

shorts	skirt	dress	socks	shoes	coat
underpants	trousers	jeans	singlet	pyjamas	scarf
swimmers	jewellery	gloves	blouse	shirt	jumper
t-shirt	jacket				

Play games

Try to develop short sentences, learning how to follow instructions and build vocabulary.

Bingo

Card games

Memory games

Matching games

Songs:

Use songs that have repetitive language to help with phrases.

For example: "Heads, shoulders, knees and toes."

Books:

Visit the library to choose and borrow a range of books/talking books/DVDs and CDs related to your child's interest.