

Philosophy of English Language Learning

When it comes to teaching English language learners, I feel that there are many important aspects of our English language that need to be considered. As teachers, we need to be aware of the how humans develop language, we need to understand the struggles or confusion English language learners may face, and lastly, we need to have the knowledge to develop quality lesson plans to help English language learners be successful when it comes to speaking, listening, reading, and writing.

It is important to remember that children do not learn language the same they learn other skills. When we learn to tie our shoes, or ride a bike, we learn through modeling, trial and error until we can do it on our own. Language is different, language is acquired over time. Knowing these small, yet important details about language will help to teach our English language learners. Being aware that our students' language develops over time will help us to know and understand when it is appropriate to start teaching new more complex strategies.

As educators we also need to be aware of the struggles and confusion our English language learners may face. Since the English language is so complex, it is important to understand the physiology and phonology of speech. The English language is incredibly difficult to learn compared to other languages, for example, the English language has 42 phonemes while Spanish has twenty two. The English language is a hard language to learn even for native speakers of English. If we as teachers have a better understanding of how complex the English language is, we can help our English language learners develop a better of our language. If we understand what they might be missing when they are learning to read, write, speak, and listen, we can help these students to fill in the gaps they may have.

Lastly, getting to know our English Language Learners culture and background will help in making each and every student to feel comfortable in our classroom environment. A teacher who employs these qualities will be a successful teacher of English Language Learners.