Strategies to Differentiate Instruction for ESL Students

How do we make curriculum accessible for English Language Learners?

The answer lies within the delivery of the material. How is this achieved? This is achieved by differentiating instruction using effective strategies for ELL students, while simultaneously supporting their language acquisition needs.

We have identified nine effective strategies to help you differentiate instruction for your English Language Learners:

1. Use curriculum focused on content to allow students to learn the essentials, without getting confused and frustrated with the “fluff.” Remove unnecessary material, words, etc., that can distract from the content.

2. Deliver the content in “chunks”, so ELL students can digest a little at a time, and then continue to build their knowledge and understanding of the material.

3. Provide background knowledge, sometimes with native language support, to allow ELLs to tie new information to something familiar. This helps students as they decode information; first trying to understand in their native language, and then transferring that understanding into English.

4. Define key vocabulary, multiple-meaning words, and figurative language.

5. Use audio and visual supports.

6. Provide multiple learning opportunities to reinforce key concepts and vocabulary.

7. Provide cross-content application of concepts, to help tie learning together, making it more comprehensible.

8. Provide curriculum that addresses all four language processes.

9. Incorporate technology with effective online programs that provide:
   - Individualized instruction
   - Opportunities to practice in various contexts
   - Ability to work at their own pace
   - Effective data for educators to determine areas of strengths, and areas of focus, in order to drive instruction.

In the United States, school districts are required to provide ESL Instruction, in the classroom, to any and all enrolled students whose primary language is not English. However, studies indicate it takes approximately five to seven years to read and write in a new language.
Effective Solutions for your ESL Students

ESL ReadingSmart
ESL ReadingSmart lessons and activities incorporate the four language processes: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. The program offers individualized instruction to develop English language proficiency.

Instructional Design
The instructional design of ESL ReadingSmart provides a flexible framework, allowing it to easily integrate with existing programs. The program can be student-led, teacher-directed, or a combination.

Student Focus
The Student Component includes a Newcomers section and a four-level, Lexile®-measured reading program. The Newcomers section facilitates the introduction of basic vocabulary and sentence structure needed by beginning ELLs. The reading program includes Lexile®-measured multi-cultural, multi-genre reading selections that incorporate vocabulary support, visual and audio support, activities in various contexts, and quizzes. Complexity increases as students progress through the program.

Data
ESL ReadingSmart provides educators with access to various user-friendly reports to determine lessons mastered, time on task, number of attempts, and areas of struggle.

ReadingMate
ReadingMate is a supplemental reading program that prepares students to read at grade level. Students read independently and comprehend increasingly complex Lexile®-measured texts from different cultural traditions and time periods.

Differentiating Instruction
ReadingMate includes various tools for educators to differentiate their instruction, including:

- Student support guides for independent practice or small group instruction
- Standards-based, comprehensive lesson plans for small-group or whole-class instruction
- Support tools including a class management module
- Comprehensive assessment and reporting for progress monitoring and support

Contact us today for more information! www.edmentum.com