

Working with your ELL student - Early Learners

ELL (English Language Learner) students may benefit from some simple accommodations during your lessons.

Best practices for working with your ELL student:

- Follow the script - focus on repetition and consistency.
- Speak slowly and increase your response time.
 - ELL students may need more time to process information and respond.
- Conduct Introductions, Brain Breaks and “How are you Feeling” activities in Spanish.
 - This will help build rapport and give your student opportunities to express themselves!
- If your student is not understanding instructions or struggling in any way with the lesson content, let your Reading Specialist know ASAP.

Things to consider!

- Though your student may not have the language to fully express themselves in English, this doesn't mean they aren't able to do so in their first language. This can be a frustrating experience.
- Embrace your student's accent! Accents are wonderful qualities that exemplify diversity and your student's individual experiences. Ensure your student is pronouncing the target letter sound without being overly critical of their unique voice.

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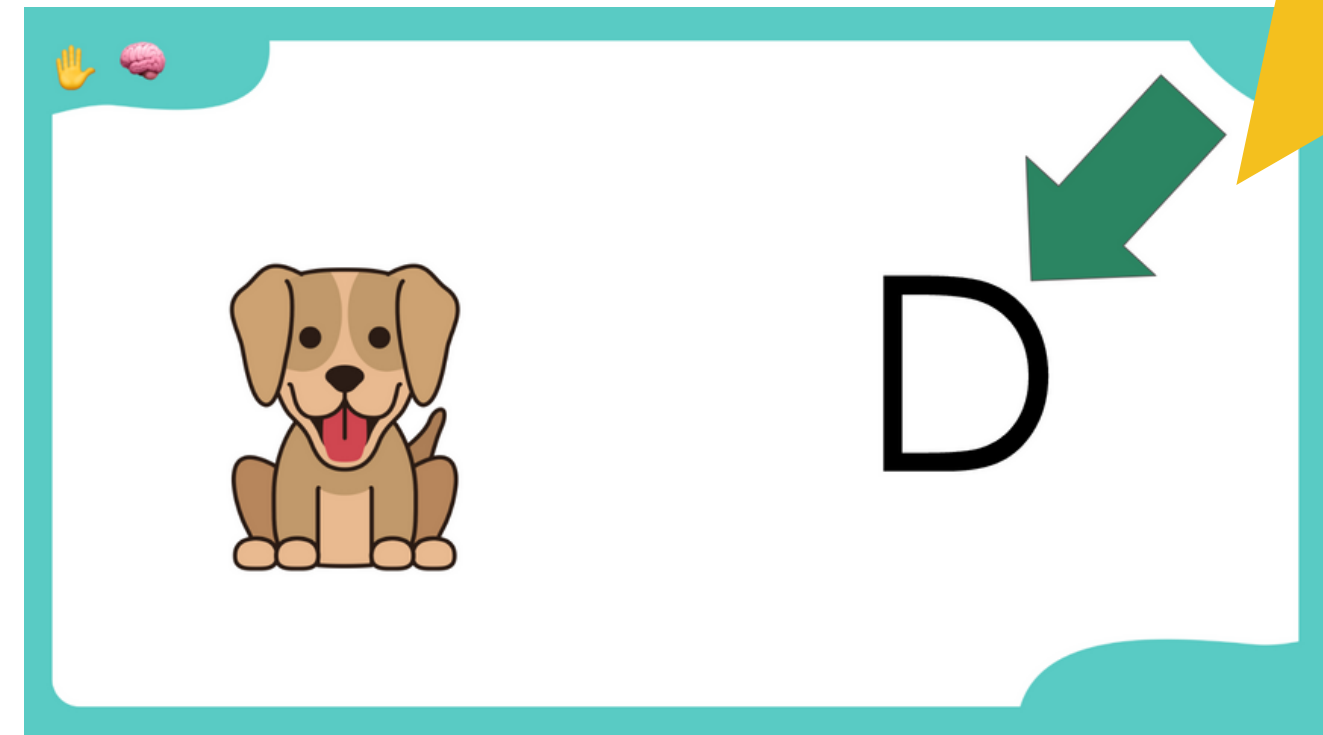
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Focus on gestures as a form of communication!

Think show
AND tell.

Incorporate gestures (with language) to help your student decode speech:

- Mime vocabulary and language.
- Use exaggerated facial expressions and cues.
- Pair verbal praise with thumbs up and clapping.
- **[Bolded text in brackets indicates a gesture.]**



1. "A letter?" [**Act out "I don't know. Lift arms and shrug 🙄**]
2. "Yes or No?" [**Shake head yes and then no**]
3. (👧 *responds verbally or nonverbally*)
4. "Yes, a letter." [**Shake head yes.**]

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Symbols in the script:



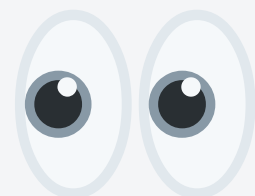
👁️ "See D, 🗨️ say /d/."

Point to your mouth to draw your student's attention to its form when pronouncing sounds.



"I hear 🗨️ /d/ in donut."

Cup your ear with your hand to emphasize a sound.



👁️ "See D, 🗨️ say /d/."

Point to your eyes to emphasize a visual.



Say: /s/, /s/, snake." 🗨️

Point to your student to indicate it's their turn.

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Take that extra step!

To foster a Growth Mindset...

Ask your student to teach you some words in their first language, perhaps as a Brain Break activity! This will show your student that you're both working towards learning something new and challenging, mistakes will be made, but that's okay - you're learning and building new skills together!

Or, if you already speak your student's first language fluently, share your journey to learning a second language and the obstacles you overcame.

