

Supporting EAL/D Learners in Secondary Classrooms

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EAL/D Teaching and Learning

- EAL/D students bring a range of experiences, languages and cultures: to be viewed as a strength. Who here can speak more than one language?
- Understanding the backgrounds (language, culture, experiences) of our students is vital. How can you do this in your school?
- Students are learning a language while learning through the language. As such teachers need to recognise the language demands of a unit of work across all subject areas.
- Additional language development is different to literacy. EAL/D students are not necessarily illiterate. However, literacy teaching does assist EAL/D students.

- Students need assistance to access challenging texts but this does not mean we should simplify texts → scaffolding
- Maintain intellectual rigour to encourage language development
- Units of work are taught using the teaching and learning cycle
- Students need assistance with understanding content, text types, paragraphing, sentence structure and vocabulary across all subjects.

What happens when we don't use EAL/D strategies?

- Students disengaged
- Misbehaviour
- The teacher restating the same information/idea over and over again
- Students unable to access the content/assessment tasks
- Students don't experience success.
- Students' language does not develop.

EAL/D Strategies

- Assume nothing about prior knowledge
- Make the learning environment 'language rich'
- Speak slowly, use gestures
- Use visual aides as often as possible
- Plan units using the curriculum cycle: setting the context, modelling & deconstruction, joint construction and independent construction – focus on developing genre.
- Deconstructing exemplar texts identifying language/structure
- Developing scaffolds for assessment tasks (planning sheets, drafting supports)
- Construct a text as a class (Joint construction)
- Ensure drafting processes for assessment tasks – use error correction codes
- Structured group work activities that develop targeted language
- Use frameworks for notetaking.
- Dictogloss
- Running dictation
- Explicitly teach vocabulary – word match, visuals, write new vocab on the board
- Explicitly teach grammar