



# Peer Help and Self-Help for ESL and ELD students

## Definitions



### **English as a Second Language (ESL) Student:**

- a student whose mother tongue is not English. The student is learning English to live in an English environment.

### **English Literacy Development (ELD) Student:**

- a newcomer who, due to a deprived educational background, is in the process of developing literacy and numeracy skills needed for integration into the regular stream.
  - Most are also ESL students.
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# Introduction



This presentation will look at ways to enable the ESL and ELD student through:

1. Peer Help
  2. Self-Help
  3. Working Independently
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# Peer Help



- Assign peers who have good communication skills to work with the ESL/ELD student.
- Have a classmate ensure that the ESL/ELD student is on the right page of text and understands the assigned task.
- Assign a buddy reader to read aloud to the student for a few minutes each day. Picture books are excellent for ESL/ELD students.
- Assign peers to listen to the ESL/ELD student read each day and assist with reading. Ensure that appropriate levelled books are available.

# Self-Help



- Encourage student self-assessment; for example reflection on how to be a good language learner.
  - Encourage the student to take ownership of learning and ask for clarification or help as needed.
  - Demonstrate how to self-edit written work, addressing errors that the student is capable of correcting.
  - Encourage older ESL and ELD students to use a children's, learner's or bilingual dictionary.
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## Self-Help (cont'd)



- Encourage the student to use strategies for language learning, such as:
    - Underlining new words in a text and guessing meaning from context before seeking help.
    - Studying graphics and illustrations, reading titles, and the 1<sup>st</sup> sentence of each paragraph to get main ideas before reading.
    - **Not** translating a text.
    - Joining extra curricular activities and making friends with English speakers.
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## Self-Help (cont'd)



- Have books for take-home reading at the student's level readily available. Encourage the student to select books and keep a reading log.
  - Encourage the student to keep a diary or journal. Check the journal and respond periodically.
  - Build the student's pride in his/her heritage and in being bilingual, a great asset to anyone.
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# Working Independently



- Set up a computer centre with appropriate software or websites bookmarked.
  - Set up a listening centre with books and audio.
  - Provide resources that address topics studied in the content areas through simplified language.
  - Provide relevant tasks that can engage the student independently.
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# Discuss other ways to enable...



- Peer help?
- Self-help?
- Working Independently?





Questions? Comments?

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The Department of Education thanks the working group that created the series of presentations on working with ESL and immigrant students:

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