

# Strategies for Literacy Development Among ESL Students

Katie Smith

# Context

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- The foreign born population of the United States as of 2000 is 31.1 million people. Imagine how much it's grown in 11 years?
- Out of 3 million public teachers surveyed, 41% report having taught ESL students but **ONLY** 12.5% of those teachers have received 8 or more hours of training.
- The majority of teachers will have at least 1 ESL learners in their class throughout their career.

# When should strategies be used?

**Suggested strategy implementation**

Strategy	English language level				When to implement		
	Young English-language learners	Beginning readers	Transitional readers	Advanced readers	Before reading	During reading	After reading
Previewing		✓	✓		✓		
Choral reading	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Shared reading	✓					✓	
Paired reading		✓	✓			✓	✓
Books with tapes	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Multicultural literature	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Language experience	✓	✓			✓		
Interactive writing	✓	✓			✓	✓	
Total physical response	✓	✓			✓	✓	
Narrow reading			✓	✓		✓	
Read aloud	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓

# Comprehension Monitoring

## TEACHERS SHOULD:

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- Clarify purpose of reading
- Focus on important aspects
- Monitor ongoing activity to determine comprehension
- Take corrective actions when failure in comprehension is detected

## STUDENTS SHOULD:

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- Think aloud
- Take notes
- Self-question
- Draw conclusions from things they read earlier in the passage
- Evaluate their current level of understanding

# Read Aloud vs. Independent Reading

## READ ALOUD

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- Equally important for native English speakers as it is for ESL students
- Helps ESL learners discover larger units of meaning instead of just word meaning
- Helps students see reading as a continuous & meaningful process

## INDEPENDENT READING

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- Children read word by word causing a break down of sentences into unmeaningful parts
- When sentences are not read as a whole, the students will not understand

# A.C.T.I.V.E.

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- ⦿ A- activate prior knowledge
- ⦿ C- cultivate vocabulary
- ⦿ T- teach for comprehension
- ⦿ I- increase reading rate
- ⦿ V- verify reading strategies
- ⦿ E- evaluate progress

# Just a few...

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- Rereading
- Selectively Reading
- Imaging
- Changing Speeds
- Assimilating with personal experience
- Concentrating
- Referring back to something that happened earlier
- Taking Notes/Underlining
- Summarizing
- Predicting Outcomes
- Self-generated questions
- Student's perceptions of teacher expectations
- Rehearsal
- Dialogue Journals

# My Research

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- ◉ Interview with 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher with Master's in ESL instruction
- ◉ Upstate New York, city school
- ◉ Interviews with 2 ESL students
- ◉ Study focused heavily on the classroom teacher, her strategies, and her ability to teach the children strategies



# My Findings

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- Answers to the teacher interview
- Compiled answers to the student questions

# Reflection

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- ◉ Interview more classroom teachers from different types of schools and teachers of children who speak many languages, not just Spanish
- ◉ Survey the children instead of asking oral questions