

English Language Learners' Activities for Summer or Anytime!!

Grades K-2

PARENTS: READ to your child!! Read in English OR in your home



language. Any type of reading improves a child's ability to understand how to read! For example, you child learns that sounds are represented by letters and that the text runs in a direction.

SPEAK with your child often! Point out interesting items on a daily walk or around your house. This builds your child's observational skills, enabling him or her to be more focused when learning English. Again, do this in English or in your home language. Do not worry if your English is not as good as you want it to be! Your child will learn from you! Children have a unique ability to learn a second language like a native speaker; what you don't know will not interfere with your child's progress.

BE EXCITED about learning! Do not act as if learning is a chore. Children are natural learners and are only discouraged when the tasks seem overwhelming or unrelated to what really matters. Make learning a central part of **WHAT YOUR FAMILY LOVES TO DO**: talk enthusiastically about what **YOU** are learning, **ASK** your child what they are learning and be happy!

Grades 3-12

STUDENTS: WATCH movies or TV shows with SUBTITLES! Watch a favorite movie in

English with subtitles in your first language, or switch it up: Watch the movie in your first language with English subtitles. Then, watch it in English with English subtitles and finally watch it without any subtitles. You will learn not only words, but how people use informal language.

STUDY ACCENTS and BECOME AN EXPERT! Can you do a Boston accent? an American Southern accent? a British accent, Irish? Australian? Try to imitate the accents of famous English-speaking people from around the world! Watch YouTube videos and try to imitate their speech. Record yourself and listen! This activity builds your observational skills and makes you more aware of the way you speak.

READ, READ, READ! Read whatever you want to read, just read!! Read fiction, read non-fiction, read online about interesting topics. The more you read, the more fluent you become. Do not worry if you don't understand every word; just get the main ideas at first. If you can read a book in your first language and also in English, that will help a lot!

ALL Grades: Online Resources

DUOLINGO.COM Duolingo has free interactive language learning in a game format.

READWORKS.ORG This free site gives you LOTS of articles and stories! Find the section for ELLs (English Language Learners) and click on your grade. You will get a short article: for example, "Clouds and Rain," "Items in a Kitchen," "Coins and the U.S. Mint," or "Asian Art." You will hear someone read the story slowly while you read it. Then, there are questions to answer. You can keep track of one article/day and you can make it harder as you get better.

NEWSLA.COM This free site has every article you'd want to read on almost any topic. You can choose real newspaper articles and vary the reading level. If you know you will be studying certain subjects in the fall, you can read up on them beforehand!

HAVE A WONDERFUL, LEARNING-RICH SUMMER!