 **Working with EAL Pupils in Primary**

EAL Highland



New to English



**Preparing for a new pupil**

* Know the child's name and how to pronounce it.
* Do the parents/ carers speak English? (you may need an interpreter)
* Does the pupil have any siblings? Liaison with other schools to aid support may be needed.
* Are there any dietary/ religious requirements? (i.e. fasting, dress code?)
* What is the pupil’s home language? Some languages also have a number of dialects so try to find out as much as possible.
* Can the child read and write in their home language?
* What age did the child start school and where did they go?
* Are there any other family members or friends living nearby?
* Make your classroom a welcoming environment by

putting up signs in your pupil’s first language.

* Collect some dual language resources for your class

and picture dictionaries.

**The First Day**

* Take photos to make into a leaflet of the school, e.g. classroom, teacher, gym and label it to take home and share with parents.
* Use a visual timetable
* Use the visual school menus
* Assign one or two buddies to guide the new pupil around the school, include them in play at interval and gradually introduce to other members of the class.
* If possible seat the new pupil beside someone who speaks their first language or invite students from other classes to come and play a game with them in their first language.
* Talk to your new pupil in simple English and support your language with visuals and gestures.
* Make sure that the school routine is understood. Show in diagrammatic form with visuals.
* Choose activities which have a low language content e.g. number, art, PE, board and computer games.
* Read [Strategies for Stage 1](http://www.ealhighland.org.uk/strategies-for-supporting-eal-pupils/)
* Start a basic Reader with a strong content of visuals to go home as homework. Aim to use age appropriate readers.
* Send home key words from the reading book with visuals for the student to translate into their first language if they are literate.
* Put in a reading group – research suggests this should be at their cognitive level but use your judgement re group dynamics, self-esteem. Reading can also be done in the home language, dependant on resources.
* Teach letter sounds e.g. with PSA or starfall.com supported with visuals for each sound.
* CVC words with visuals e.g. paper chains, bingo, board games.
* Build topic vocab and writing with EAL language builder booklet, Hounslow booklet, flashcards with PSA/ peer/ buddy and plenty of oral practice.
* Simple writing tasks e.g. visuals and sentences to match – limit copying from the board.
* Allow writing tasks to be done in home language if appropriate – other pupils/ parents may be able to translate
* Homework: send home word lists/ word bank, if possible with visuals e.g. classroom language, topic and new vocab.

**Getting Started in Literacy**

**Common Questions ?**

***How long does it take for a pupil to become a fluent user of English?***

*This can take from 5 to 11 years depending on a range of factors which include pupil motivation, age, level of competence in their home language and previous educational experience*

***Are early stage learners sometimes silent for an initial period?***

*Yes, research shows that pupils who are new to English can sometimes take up to 6 months before gaining confidence to speak. It is important that you continue to speak to the pupil at every opportunity and give encouragement to any attempts at a response.*

***Should the pupil be withdrawn for beginner English lessons?*** *No, in the UK teaching and learning through English as an Additional Language does not have a separate syllabus. It takes place in mainstream classrooms and the acquisition of English occurs across all the curricular subjects.*

***Should the pupil be encouraged to speak in their first language during the lesson with one of their peers?*** *Yes, the reinforcement and clarification of the learning in their first language will progress their cognitive skills and will also contribute to their English language development.*

***For more information and resources*** *-* [*EAL Highland Blog*](http://www.ealhighland.org.uk/)