

The Underhill Way

The 10 ways we support children with EAL

1. Visuals

We ensure classroom instructions are clear and consistent and initially backed up with visuals. We use gesture and visuals for new vocabulary and activities. We use widgeit, photographs, picture dictionaries and dual language books in a wide variety of languages to support.

2. Play games, tell stories, sing songs!

We use repetitive language and actions and play games that encourage social interaction to practise turn-taking and key phrases.

3. Buddy up

Buddy up new children to the school with a friend in the class who can help them with the rules and routines of the day. Use reading partners so children can share reading with good language role models.

4. Check positioning in the classroom

Ensure the EAL learner can see and hear well within the classroom. Group seating arrangements allow pupils to feel secure and relaxed when speaking.

5. Allow time

Allow extra time for pupils to rehearse answers mentally. Encourage practice with talk partner/additional adult. Continue to support pupils through 'the silent period' - Don't force pupils to speak before they are ready!

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6. Model and extend

Respond and reply in words that model and extend language. Rephrase sentences and questions, and repeat key instructions and information. We don't correct speech, but provide the correct model in response.

7. Learning environment

Background noise is kept to a minimum so that pupils can understand more easily. Encourage talk before writing full sentences and use writing partners and writing groups.

8. Display

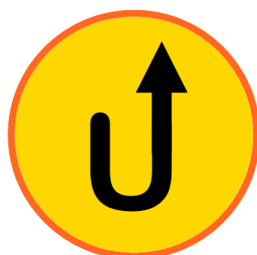
Display key curricular vocabulary and use word mats as prompts in class. Have word/expression/idiom of the week. Ensure books reflect cultural diversity and use different scripts and languages in play areas.

9. Preteaching

Give opportunities to build on English word banks and prioritise comprehension over phonic decoding. Encourage children, staff and families to read stories in their home language with the whole class. Ensure books are age-appropriate and have visual clues, and be aware of typical EAL errors and address them in planning.

10. Praise praise praise!

Praise children when they show indications of understanding.



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