

Dear Parents,

ELL student's first steps in adjusting to being here will be to build on their knowledge of words by talking to other students. Practicing talking to others in class, on the playground, watching and making sense of television programs, or joining an after school club, will help make this progress faster. It will probably take a couple of months before they feel comfortable trying to speak with people they don't know well.

The second step, learning how to read, will be a slower progression. We do have many books in our library for different levels of English Language Learner (ELL) students. We will be visiting our library once a week and students will be able to borrow two books. The public library also has a very good ELL section of books in their Children's section. Your child should also continue to read in their native language to continue improving their reading ability.

ELL student's writing will make the slowest progress, taking several years to really become more fluent. This can become a frustration, and therefore requires a lot of encouragement and patience.

We do not use textbooks often, but students will be given pages in many of their subjects that can be taken home and read with you. They will also be in our class during science and social studies once a week to help clarify some of the things being talked about, as well a supporting writing in the classroom once a week. The translation tool in word has greatly improved and we will help learn how to use this tool as well.

Our first goal will be to get level one students feeling comfortable and beginning to express themselves orally in English. It is normal for students to start feeling good about their new class, but then get depressed a couple of months later, when they realize that it takes a while to improve their English. If you notice your child getting a little down, it would be helpful to know, so that we can help them start feeling well again. I hope this note helps.

M. Nielsen