

# Working With English Language Learners With a Language Experience Approach

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## What must a teacher do?

### Develop a Literate Mind

As Marie urged us to do we need to link oral language and literacy learning early on so they will progress together. A Language Experience Approach (LEA) can accomplish this. Think of it as a literacy triangle, one point is oral language, another writing, and the third point is reading. A LEA is best to be used in a small group setting (4 students) who are homogeneously grouped by language levels.

#### **1. Develop Conceptual Knowledge**

Provide a shared experience that:

- Is hands-on and meaningful (use realia, take mini-fieldtrips)
- Links to past learning
- Builds background knowledge and vocabulary
- Categorizes information (Diamond and Four/graphic organizers)

#### **2. Develop Listening and Speaking Skills**

- **Talk-** before, during, and after shared experience
- **Scaffolding and feedback-** to increase language development (up the ante)
- **Human Sentence (Gentile)-** Provides children practice and experience constructing and expanding sentences.
- **Think-pair-share-** active engagement, everyone participates

#### **3. Develop Writing Strategies**

- **Assisted Writing** -Interactive Writing Recording and expanding student conversations from human sentences (what you say, you can write). Work on CAP, Phonemic Awareness, phonics, etc.

#### **4. Develop Text Reading Strategies**

- **Shared Reading-**of Assisted writing chart (what you write, you can read)
- **Independent Reading-** shared reading becomes familiar reading

#### **5. Assessment of Student Learning**

- Formal and Informal observations
- CELDT stages-Examining student work samples for language structures