

## Guidelines for English Language Learners

- \* Activities and materials should be age appropriate and geared to literacy levels.
- \* Some learners may be fluent in a language similar in structure to English; other learners may be used to a completely differently alphabet.
- \* Cultural expectations about teachers and education vary widely. What is important in one culture may seem unimportant in another.

### Tips for Working w/ English Language Learners

- \* **Watch your language.** *Speak simply and clearly. Use short, complete sentences in a normal tone of voice. Use actions and illustrations to reinforce oral statements. Visual aids, prompts, and facial expressions help to convey meaning. Avoid using slang or figures of speech; they often confuse learners.*
- \* **Model correct usage.** *When English language learners make a mistake or say something that sounds awkward, they are trying to apply what they know about their first language to English. Respect the struggle inherent in learning a new language.*
- \* **Value the culture of the learner.** *Start by asking your students to teach you about the language and customs of their country of origin. Then try learning a few words in their language.*
- \* **Encourage conversation.** *Meaningful interaction will speed progress. Activities like drama and sports create opportunities for students to interact with fellow students in meaningful ways. Tutoring sessions can take place anywhere - in a field, in the gym, in a park. Push back from your desks and move around.*
- \* **Think of learning a new language as a process.** *Have your students make and keep a language journal to track their efforts to use language in new ways.*