

SD EL Chat #1



December 2017

Thank you all for joining us during our very first SD EL Chat! We had a diverse group of educators representing school districts from across our state. We had great conversations and lots of new resources and ideas were shared!

Q3: What are you hoping to get from attending the SD English Learner chats?

- Find ways to help teachers connect
- Cultural information to help connect with families
- Find a space to gather resources

Q4: What are your top three things you would like to learn regarding the education of EL students?

- More information on students who are SLIFE students
- More information on co-teaching
- Helping classroom teachers understand what EL students need
- More information on ESSA and EL accountability
- Best ways to help EL students perform better
- Collaboration with content teachers

Q5: Is there a resource or something "cool" going on in your classroom that you would like to share with the group during a session?

- Some schools, to help the ESL teacher connect with and support the content teacher working with ELs, have started Monthly ESL Meetings, but I like the "ESL Lounge" name better. During this informal discussion time, teachers come with questions and/or content they will be teaching and can get some support in how to support the EL student in their room. Make it fun! Have snacks 😊
- A teacher utilizes her Google Pixel 2 phone to practice students speaking skills. Students record themselves speaking and files are saved to the google cloud account. Students are able to view the videos and see what they need to work on. They focus on:
 1. Volume and Clarity
 2. Practicing before hitting the record button

3. Using practice to get rid of "umms"

4. For the upper grades, note taking to organize what they want to talk about.

Some of the topics that have been utilized with this activity include: Can you tell me about the water cycle? What was the main idea of the story you just read? Can you sequence the main events of the story?

*This activity is an awesome example of Formative Assessment and a great way for students to use assessment AS learning!

Resources that were shared:

- <https://www.bloomz.net/> way to send messages to parents in their first language (they choose which language they will receive the teacher's text in)
- Book- *Unlocking English Learners Potential- Strategies for Making Content Accessible*. Authors: Diane Staehr Fenner and Sydney Snyder
- Resource for parents by Megan Fischer - <http://megaedu.weebly.com/>
- <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/sayhi-translate/id437818260?mt=8>

Next meeting: January 16, 2018

Topic: How can teachers improve Oral Academic Language Development

- Q1: Research shows ELs have limited opportunities to engage in meaningful talk in school? Do you agree with this finding? Why...
- Q2: What strategies do you employ to help ELs develop oral language for academic purposes?
- Q3: What activities do you use to get students to expand on the oral language production?
- Q4: How can ESL professionals help general education teachers give more "talk time" to ELs in the general education classroom

Hope to see you there!