



ESOL Insights

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Greetings From Halla Jmourko, ESOL Teacher Coach

Why Differentiate Instruction?

- All students are being held to the same high academic standards in content areas.
- Developmentally appropriate content helps ESOL students develop cognitively while they acquire English.



What is Differentiated Instruction?

- Differentiating instruction means varying instruction to make the content more comprehensible for ESOL students.
- This does not mean watering down the curriculum by removing challenging content, but rather recognizing that English language learners may take different pathways to academic achievement than native speakers do.

Ways to Differentiate Instruction

1. **Set high expectations for all learners**
2. **Teach study skills** such as notebook organization, note-taking, the effective use of textbooks, and the appropriate use of a bilingual dictionary
3. **Adapt written materials** by listing keywords, repeating new words frequently, and providing outlines
4. **Provide verbal cues** such as stating transitional words (first, next, finally), simplifying lengthy directions with attention-getters, giving directions orally and in writing
5. **Tap into students' prior knowledge**
6. **Model learning strategies** by using think alouds, giving examples of what you are expecting, and using new vocabulary and language structures in context to help explain their meaning
7. **Use a variety of teaching strategies** such as multi-sensory experiences, scaffolding, increased wait time, role plays, games, demonstrations, dialogue journals, and interviews
8. **Use alternative assessments** such as allowing students to show what they know in various formats, using fewer words

Have questions or concerns?

Need support?

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