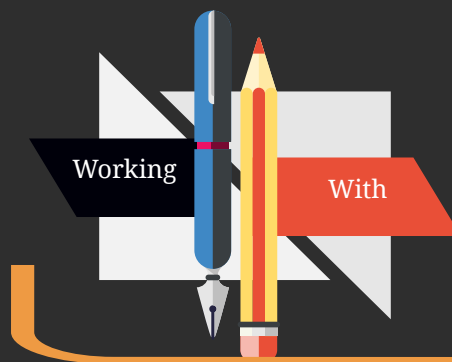


In July of 2021, I worked with rising 5th grade English Language Learners during Summer School as a substitute teacher for Chesterfield County. This is what I learned.



# ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

By Sofia Perez

## EDUTOPIA'S ESSENTIAL STRATEGIES FOR TEACHING ELL STUDENTS IN PRACTICE

### CULTIVATE RELATIONSHIPS AND BE CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE

I noticed that the students seemed to particularly enjoy teaching me words in Spanish, and they were all very enthusiastic to describe what traditional foods their parents made them for lunch, and what their favorite foods from their cultures were.

### TEACH LANGUAGE SKILLS ACROSS THE CURRICULUM

Something I didn't initially consider, was the need for teaching subject specific vocabulary to the students, not just new words. I found myself having to look up images to give the students visuals for certain words that they did not have context for. For example, when we were reading "Goldilocks and the Three Bears", I had to show them images of porridge to successfully explain what it was.

### DIFFERENTIATE

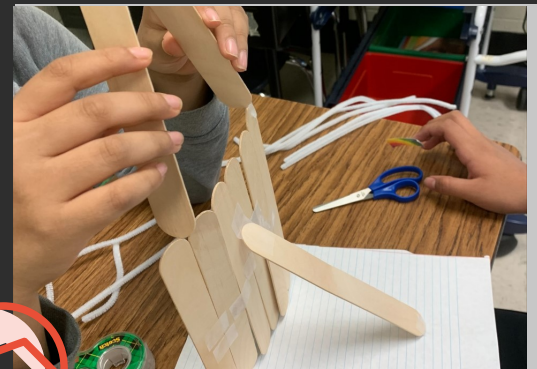
Every student responded differently to various methods of instruction, and I found that the use of activity stations was a great way to meet every student's needs. The students were able to act out stories with puppets, fill out Mad Libs, work with their hands to construct houses, put story sequences in order, and more.



### THE IMPORTANCE OF HAVING A TRANSLATOR

Communication with parents is an integral part of supporting students at the elementary level. Without a translator, this can be nearly impossible. For example, we had an incident where a few students missed the bus, and without the translator, we would not have been able to communicate what was happening to the parents so that they could make arrangements to pick their children up from school.

Collaboration is Key



The students had fun working together to construct houses to see if they could survive the "Big Bad Blow Dryer" after reading "The Three Little Pigs" during a unit on fairy tales.