

ELL Tips for School Librarians

Part I: Introducing ELLs to the School Library



Welcoming Students

Welcome English Language Learners (ELLs) with smiles and friendly greetings. Learn to say students' names correctly.



Students' Interests

Get to know students' interests so that you can recommend books related to their favorite sports, music, games, shows, and hobbies.



Different Types of Books

Show students a variety of materials such as picture books, chapter books, graphic novels, non-fiction, different genres, audiobooks, and magazines.



Book Recommendations

Invite students to share their recommendations with each other through book talks, book trailers, book reviews, and book clubs.



Students' Languages

Display books in students' languages prominently. Show students where to find them and identify different sources for multilingual titles.



Students' Cultures

Celebrate students' cultures by sharing related books, inviting students to share their culture, and highlighting diverse holidays.

To see more great tips, visit the [online version](#) of this article!



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Part II: Instruction and Engagement



Scaffold Read-Alouds

Scaffold your read-alouds by providing background knowledge, inviting student questions, and doing quick [comprehension checks](#).



Teach Vocabulary

Teach [key vocabulary](#) by using [visuals](#), real objects, materials such as felt boards and puppets, [multilingual glossaries](#), and [cognates](#).



Media Literacy Skills

Provide direct instruction in how to use digital media resources available through your library, as well as reference materials.



Collaboration

Connect with classroom teachers and other specialists to identify students' books of interest and titles that can support the curriculum.



Engaging ELL Families

[Welcome families to the library](#) for storytime, book fairs, and other events. Provide information in families' languages about these activities.



Public Library

Invite a local librarian to visit the school and highlight key resources and events at the public library, as well as offer library card sign-ups.

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