

EAL Support at AISB



Meet the Teachers

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AISB Philosophy



We believe that:

- All students are **capable** of learning an additional language
 - Students learn language when it is in a **meaningful context**
 - A **positive and supportive environment** enhances language learning.
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AISB Philosophy



We believe that:

- **Collaboration** between classroom teachers, EAL teachers and parents benefits language learners.
 - Maintaining language and literacy in the **home language** is key to students' success in academic English
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Language Learning

- It takes 1-2 years for students to become level with native-speaker peers in **social** English
- It takes 5-7 years for students to become level with native-speaker peers in **academic** English *if they have strong literacy skills in their home language* (8-10 years if they don't)



Challenges for English Language Learners

- **Cultural** differences in both social and academic expectations
- Learning **academic content and language** at the same time
- **'Moving target'** - rest of peers also learning and progressing - like chasing a running horse!



Supporting our English Language Learners at AISB

- At AISB we aim to support our ELLs to become proficient in both **social and academic language**
 - EAL teachers work together with classroom teachers to provide students with **support tools** and **strategies** to be academically successful while still developing English skills.
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How and When Does My Child Get Support?

- EAL support at AISB is designed to be fluid and flexible to meet the needs of each learner. It may include:
 - Small-group EAL classes 4-5 periods a week
 - In-class support from an EAL teacher within the homeroom class
 - Modifications from the homeroom teacher, in collaboration with an EAL teacher
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EAL Curriculum

- EAL is not a separate curriculum. We support students towards their success with the mainstream content curriculum.
 - EAL support focuses on the **vocabulary, strategies, language** and **opportunities to practice** that our learners need to be successful with the mainstream class curriculum.
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What Happens in EAL Classes?

- Small-group EAL classes take many forms, depending on student needs. They may look like:
 - Practicing classroom language needed to communicate with peers and teachers
 - Discussing a concept related to a social studies unit
 - Exploring vocabulary for a science unit
 - Engaging in hands-on activities to reinforce a concept in math
 - Reading and discussing fiction or non-fiction texts
 - Learning how to organize ideas and use vocabulary to effectively persuade someone of an opinion by showing supporting evidence
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Benefits of EAL classes

- Specialized instruction targeted to individual student needs
 - Builds confidence
 - Encourages risk taking in a non-threatening environment
 - Supports students' understanding and competence in academic subjects
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Benefits of In-Class Support

- Teachers collaborate to modify the curriculum as needed
 - Students are supported 'on-the-spot' with their class work
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WIDA Levels

6- Reaching	Knows and uses social and academic language like a native speaker
5- Bridging	Knows and uses social and academic language working with grade level material 
4- Expanding	Knows and uses social English and some technical academic language
3- Developing	Knows and uses social English and some specific academic language with support
2- Beginning	Knows and uses some social English and general academic language with support
1- Entering	Knows and uses minimal English and minimal academic language with support

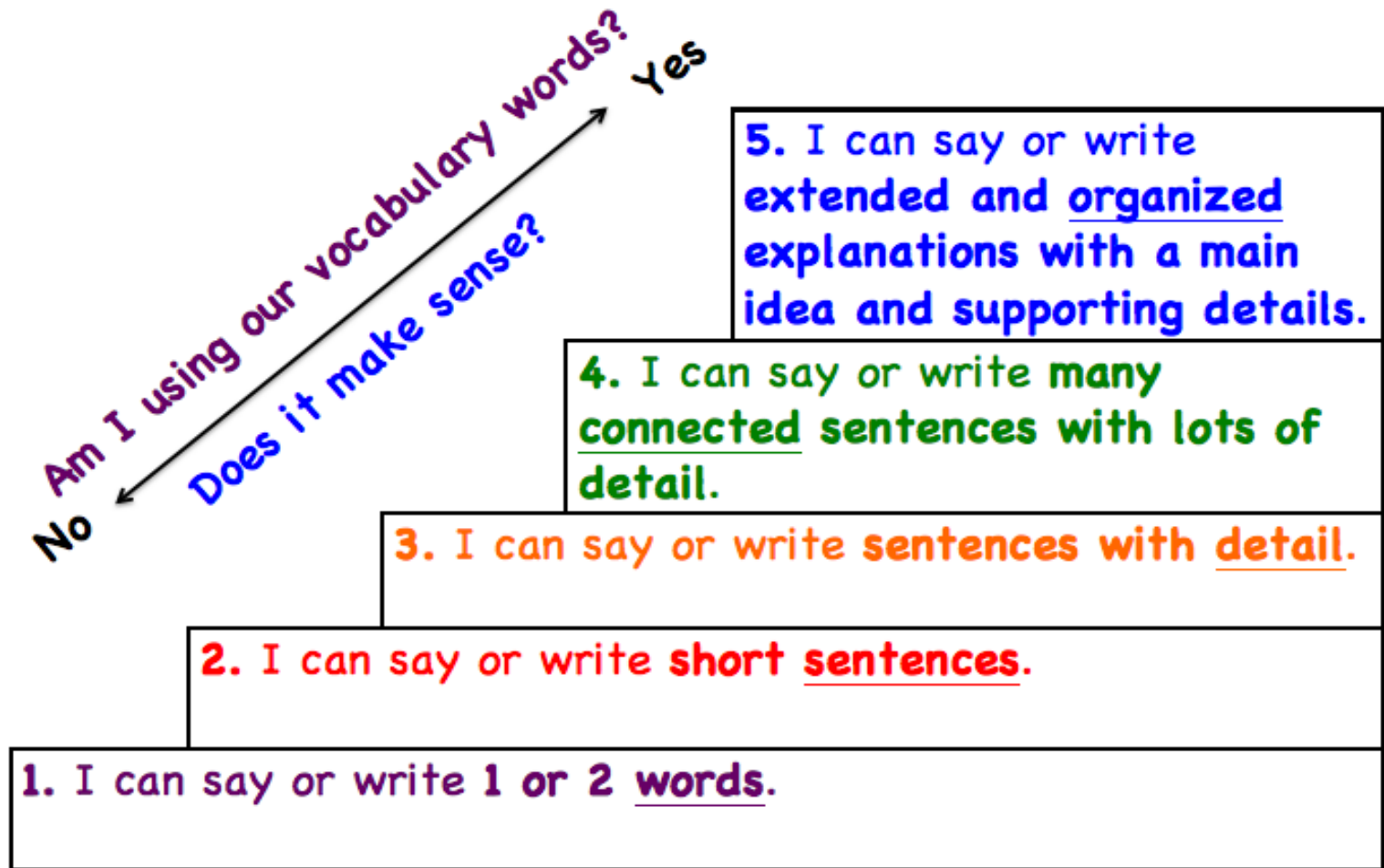
EXIT LEVEL

Assessment of Language Learning Needs

- Students are assessed through **standardized tests** and **performance tasks** on an on-going basis by both EAL teachers and classroom teachers to determine their degree of support
 - Support is **gradually reduced** as students demonstrate readiness
 - Once students demonstrate proficiency at WIDA Level 5 in speaking, listening, reading & writing -> exit (no longer receive EAL support)
 - Exited students continue to be **monitored** to ensure a smooth transition away from EAL support
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Levels in Student Friendly Language

Language Levels



How Parents Can Help



- Develop home language (including literacy)
- Talk with your children in their **home language** about what they are **learning in school**
- Encourage after school activities & play dates in both English and the home language

How Parents Can Help



- Accept that mistakes are part of learning
 - Read together in home language
 - Continue to communicate in your home language *even if your child responds in English*
 - Be patient
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Volunteers Needed

- We need help with translating:
 - Information for parents
 - Presentations (like this one!)
 - Vocabulary lists
 - Parent-teacher communications
 - If you are able and willing to provide help with translating for your home language, please sign up or contact your child's EAL teacher!
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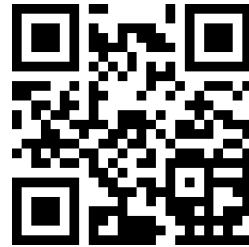


American International
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Thank you!

See the EAL website for further information and updates!

ealaisb.weebly.com



If you have further questions throughout the year, please contact us at:

- kcromartie@aisb.hu - Kathy Cromartie, Grade 1
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 - dgillis@aisb.hu - Doug Gillis, Grade 4 & 5
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