



KS2 Reading Overview for EAL Learners (English as an Additional Language)



Supporting EAL (English as an Additional Language) learners in reading during Key Stage 2 involves providing targeted strategies that cater to their language development, reading comprehension, and engagement. This overview highlights essential approaches and practices that promote literacy skills, language acquisition, and confidence in reading for EAL learners.

Key Areas of Focus:

1. **Building Vocabulary**
2. **Developing Comprehension Skills**
3. **Promoting Fluency**
4. **Encouraging Engagement**
5. **Supporting Cultural Awareness**

1. Building Vocabulary

For EAL learners, developing a strong vocabulary is essential for understanding texts and improving communication skills. Vocabulary instruction should be explicit and context-based, helping learners understand new words in relation to the text and their everyday experiences.

Strategies:

- **Pre-Teaching Vocabulary:** Before reading a text, introduce key vocabulary that learners may find challenging. Use visuals, gestures, and real-life objects to illustrate meaning.
- **Picture Dictionaries:** Encourage the use of bilingual or picture dictionaries to help learners understand words in both their home language and English.
- **Vocabulary Journals:** Have learners maintain personal vocabulary journals where they record new words, their meanings, translations in their home language, and example sentences.
- **Labelling and Word Walls:** Create a classroom environment rich in vocabulary by labelling objects in the room and maintaining word walls where new words from class readings are displayed.

Activities:

- **Word Mapping:** Create word maps where students explore synonyms, antonyms, and how the word is used in different contexts.
- **Interactive Games:** Play vocabulary games like **Pictionary** or **Bingo** to reinforce understanding of new words in a fun and engaging way.

2. Developing Comprehension Skills

Comprehension can be challenging for EAL learners, especially if they are still developing their English language skills. Explicit teaching of reading strategies is crucial for helping them grasp the meaning of texts.

Strategies:

- **Use of Dual-Language Texts:** Where possible, provide dual-language books that contain both the learner's home language and English. This supports understanding and builds confidence.
- **Visual Aids:** Incorporate visual aids such as illustrations, graphic organizers, and story maps to help learners follow the plot and understand key concepts.
- **Scaffolded Questions:** Use differentiated questioning techniques that range from literal (What happened in the story?) to inferential (Why did the character act that way?), providing sentence starters to help students form their responses.
- **Summarization:** Encourage students to summarize texts orally or in writing, using simple language at first and gradually increasing the complexity.

Activities:

- **Picture Sequencing:** Provide images from the story for students to sequence and retell the plot.
- **Partner Reading:** Pair EAL learners with native English speakers or more proficient peers for shared reading. After reading a section, they can discuss what happened, with the proficient reader modelling comprehension strategies.



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- **Story Mapping:** Create visual story maps where students can track characters, setting, and events to reinforce understanding of the text structure.

3. Promoting Fluency

Fluency—the ability to read texts smoothly and accurately—is often a challenge for EAL learners, as they may struggle with pronunciation and pacing. Supporting fluency requires repeated practice in a low-pressure environment.

Strategies:

- **Echo Reading:** The teacher reads a passage aloud, and the learner echoes it back. This helps with pronunciation, intonation, and pacing.
- **Choral Reading:** The whole class reads a passage together, allowing EAL learners to gain confidence by hearing the text read aloud by their peers.
- **Audio Support:** Provide audiobooks or recordings of texts so EAL learners can listen and follow along, improving their pronunciation and rhythm.
- **Timed Re-Reading:** Learners read a passage multiple times, with each reading timed. Over time, their fluency improves as they become more familiar with the text.

Activities:

- **Reader's Theatre:** Use scripts for short plays or scenes from stories where learners can practice reading aloud in roles, focusing on fluency and expression.
- **Poetry Recitations:** Encourage learners to memorize and recite simple poems or rhymes, focusing on fluency, pronunciation, and rhythm.

4. Encouraging Engagement



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Engaging EAL learners in reading is crucial for helping them develop a love for reading in English. Using a range of culturally relevant, age-appropriate, and language-sensitive texts can help make reading more meaningful and enjoyable.

Strategies:

- **Culturally Relevant Texts:** Include books that reflect the cultural backgrounds of EAL learners. This not only fosters engagement but also validates their cultural identity.
- **Interactive Reading Activities:** Use role-play, group discussions, and hands-on projects that relate to the texts being read to make reading interactive and enjoyable.
- **Reading Buddies:** Pair EAL learners with native speakers or older students to read together, encouraging social interaction and peer support.

Activities:

- **Book Clubs:** Create small book clubs where EAL learners can discuss books with peers in a supportive setting, with guided questions to support comprehension and expression.
- **Creative Projects:** After reading, learners can create their own stories, poems, or art inspired by the text. This allows them to express their understanding in creative ways.

5. Supporting Cultural Awareness

Reading can also serve as a tool for fostering cultural awareness and inclusion in the classroom. It's important for EAL learners to see their own cultures represented in the reading material, as well as to learn about the cultures of others.

Strategies:

- **Multicultural Book Selections:** Choose texts from different cultures and countries, providing opportunities for EAL learners to share their own cultural experiences with their peers.



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- **Home-School Reading Partnerships:** Encourage parents of EAL learners to read with their children in both their home language and English. Provide suggestions for books in both languages that are available at local libraries.
- **Class Discussions:** Use stories from diverse cultures to spark discussions on traditions, values, and customs. This can help both EAL and native learners appreciate diversity in the classroom.

Activities:

- **Cultural Storytelling Days:** Allow EAL learners to share traditional stories from their culture, either in English or their home language, followed by a class discussion or retelling.
- **Comparative Story Analysis:** Have students read folktales or stories from different cultures and compare them to English or Western stories. This encourages critical thinking and appreciation of global narratives.

Conclusion

Supporting EAL learners in KS2 requires a combination of vocabulary development, fluency practice, comprehension strategies, and culturally relevant material. Using these reading enhancements creates an inclusive learning environment where EAL pupils can thrive and develop confidence in their reading abilities. By building a foundation in vocabulary and comprehension and promoting engagement with diverse texts, EAL learners can make significant progress in their literacy development.