Project DELTA
ESOL Instructional Videos
Facilitator’s Guide

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Project DELTA – Developing English Language and Literacy through Teacher Achievement

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Welcome to Project DELTA’s ESOL (English to Speakers of Other Languages) professional development videos. These videos are intended for teacher-educators in teacher education programs, either with infused content and/or stand-alone coursework in ESOL. The videos were designed in consideration of a two-course, ESOL infused teacher education program model, such as the ProTeach program at the University of Florida. However, varied other teacher education programs, institutions of higher education, or local school district professional development (PD) programs in ESOL may find these videos useful to prepare teachers or to reinforce teacher learning in professional learning communities.

The two videos are divided into four segments.

**Video 1** has two segments. **Segment I** introduces viewers to the specific considerations of mainstream teachers in K-2 (lower elementary level), inclusive classrooms. **Segment II** builds upon that content and adds teaching strategies and literacy development of ELLs.

**Video 2** has two segments. **Segment I** introduces viewers to mainstream teacher practices in the upper elementary level in a content area class (mathematics). The segment addresses lesson planning, gradual release, and identifying vocabulary for ELLs in inclusive classrooms. It also addresses the use of visual aids for ELLs. **Segment II** builds upon that content and adds grouping strategies and home-school communication practices.

The average length of each video is 35 minutes, and the average length of each segment is 16 minutes. Specific video lengths are provided below, along with an Overview of each segment, the Highlights of each video, Discussion Questions, and References or additional information to extend learning.

We invite you to share and use these videos. Thank you for viewing!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Video/Segment</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Page</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Video 1, Segment I</td>
<td>Introduces viewers to the specific considerations of mainstream teachers in K-2, inclusive classrooms.</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Video 1, Segment II</td>
<td>Builds upon that content and adds teaching strategies and literacy development.</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Video 2, Segment I</td>
<td>Introduces viewers to mainstream teacher practices in the upper elementary level in a mathematics class. Includes use of visual aids for ELLs.</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Video 2, Segment II</td>
<td>Builds upon that content and adds grouping strategies and home-school communication practices.</td>
<td>15</td>
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</table>
The purpose of the two videos is to facilitate the preparation of mainstream, elementary teachers in inclusive classrooms who will or who are currently working with English Language Learners (ELLs) throughout the state of Florida and the United States. The videos were conceptualized as a response to the limited availability nationally of training materials (videos) to prepare mainstream teachers of ELLs to work in inclusive settings. This work follows a theoretical framework, surrounding specialized teacher practices for ELLs (Coady, de Jong, & Harper, 2011; de Jong, Harper, & Coady, 2013). The three dimensions of the framework include: (1) teacher knowledge related to second language teaching and learning processes; (2) teacher preparation, background, and experiences, including formal and informal types of preparation; and (3) teacher knowledge of ELL students as learners. We view these three dimensions as interrelated and intersection (Coady, de Jong, & Harper, 2011; see Figure 1 below).

Figure 1: The Dimensions of Teacher Practices with ELLs

In addition to the theoretical underpinnings of this work, the study guide reflects sociocultural theory, which situates learning in its social, cultural, and historical contexts. This underscores the concept of human development and student learning as embedded in social interactions. Tharp and Gallimore (1988) describe this perspective as having profound implications for teaching, schooling, and education. A key feature of this emergent view of human development is that higher order functions develop out of social interaction. Vygotsky argues that a child’s development cannot be understood by a study of the individual. We must also examine the external social world in which that individual life has developed.
With respect to the four videos referenced in this Facilitator’s Guide, a sociocultural perspective underlines the situatedness of these two classrooms. The instructional decisions made by teachers, the standards (learning objectives) she follows, and the manner in which she approaches and implements the lessons are all responses to the context in which she teaches. Other contextual variables include the background and language abilities of the ELLs in the classroom and the resources available to the teacher. Hence, these videos are not meant to be standardized or generalizable to any other classroom setting; they are for illustrative purposes and intended to be discussed in order to meet other, unique configurations of classrooms.

In addition, viewers of this video are likewise situated in distinct sociocultural contexts. Viewers are encouraged to interact with each other and to share views and ideas. We argue that the social interactions and conversations that take place around the videos is where learning is likely to occur for viewers. The guiding questions found in this Guide are intended to be a starting point for those conversations to take place.
Over the past decade, there has been a steady increase in the number of students identified as English language learners (ELLs) in K-12 classrooms across the United States. Data from the Migration Policy Institute (2010a) indicate that there were over 5 million ELLs in grades pre-Kindergarten to 12th grade in the US in 2008, and about 80% of those students come from homes where Spanish is the primary language spoken. While there is no consistent, national definition of what constitutes an English Language Learner, experts generally agree that an ELL is:

- a non-native English speaker in the process of learning English
- has difficulties in speaking, reading, writing, and/or understanding the English language (No Child Left Behind Act, 2001); and
- is part of an extremely diverse group, representing different backgrounds [e.g., home countries], experiences, and language(s) (Wright, 2010).

Florida has the third largest number of ELLs in the US, following California and Texas (MPI, 2010b). According to the Florida Department of Education, the three largest language groups in Florida schools are Spanish, Haitian Creole, and Portuguese, with approximately 300 different home languages reported by schools in 2009-2010 (FL DOE, 2011). The majority of Florida’s nearly 250,000 ELLs are placed in monolingual, mainstream classrooms with teachers who receive professional development in working effectively with ELLs in inclusion settings (Platt, Harper, & Mendoza, 2003). Florida is one of only three states in the U.S. to require the preparation of all teachers for ELLs (Quality Counts, 2009, TESOL 2013).
Overview
Kim Cook is a mainstream, first grade classroom teacher with three ELLs in her inclusive classroom. In this video segment, Ms. Cook describes her ELLs and notes that she has one identified ELL with a learning disability. A second ELL is in the process of undergoing identification for learning disabilit(ies). All three of her ELLs come from Spanish-speaking homes.

The following topics are introduced in the Video 1, Segment I:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Content</th>
<th>Time Code (min’ sec”)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction to ELLs and English language ability levels</td>
<td>0’ 55” – 2’ 50”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whole group read aloud with ESOL strategies</td>
<td>2’ 51” – 4’ 21”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brain breaks</td>
<td>4’ 22” - 5’ 46”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phonemic awareness modeled, whole group response</td>
<td>5’ 47” - 8’ 40”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use of native language (Spanish) in classroom to check compre-</td>
<td>8’ 41” - 10’ 45”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hension</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use of multicultural literature</td>
<td>10’ 46” – 11’ 20”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use of technology (Smart Board) for English language support</td>
<td>11’ 21” – 15’ 00”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pictures, group responses</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revising content not mastered</td>
<td>15’ 01” – 16’00”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Modeling instructions for ELLs (quiz-quiz-trade)</td>
<td>16’ 01” – 17’ 13”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher reflection on student learning</td>
<td>17’14” – 18’55”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In this section, we examine a select set of issues related to ELL teacher knowledge and skills and how this translates to the classroom. For Video 1, Segment I we highlight two central concepts:

- Knowing your student: language proficiency and cultural diversity
- Making instruction accessible using what you know about your students

### A. Describing ELLs’ language ability levels

While viewing this segment of the video, note how Ms. Cook describes her ELLs’ language ability levels across the four language domains of listening, speaking, reading, and writing. It is important for teachers of ELLs to learn the language associated with different English proficiency levels of their students and to accurately describe language ability levels for ELLs. Each school district may use slightly different terminology, but accurate terminology should be used to describe ELLs’ abilities and inform instructional decisions (such as setting language objectives). Although the terminology used to describe language proficiency of ELLs in Florida is broad, there are five (5) language proficiency levels of ELLs used and referenced throughout the state of Florida (Wright, 2010, p.9):

I. **Preproduction**: Students are not able to produce English. They communicate by using gestures and actions.

II. **Early production**: Students are able to use one or two words or short phrases.

III. **Speech emergent**: Students are able to produce longer sentences and complete sentences.

IV. **Intermediate**: Students appear to be fluent in English and able to engage in conversations. Errors may continue to appear in style or usage.

V. **Advanced**: ELLs can typically communicate effectively in orally in social and academic settings; however, they may continue to struggle with reading and writing.

Note that language proficiency stages should take into consideration all four modalities of language, including listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills.

- Receptive skills – listening and reading (must be assessed through students’ demonstration or use of language)
- Expressive skills – speaking and writing (may be assessed directly through tasks and assessment measures).
B. Pre-reading Strategies in a Big Book lesson

Ms. Cook demonstrates the use of effective pre-reading strategies in her Big Book lesson. In this example, she reads a story to her students using oversized cards. The strategies Ms. Cook uses develop motivation, purpose, background knowledge, and build vocabulary. Building background is a very important part of teaching ELLs because teachers of ELLs cannot make assumptions about what their ELLs know or do not know. Note in the video how Ms. Cook uses these strategies:

1) Teacher talk to clarify the purpose of the text.
2) Develop vocabulary before reading. “Frontloading” or pre-teaching vocabulary related to the text is necessary for ELLs.
3) Preview to show students how to read the titles, headings, subheadings, and summaries in a book as ways of text.
4) Anticipation guide to motivate students and help them to predict what will happen next in a text.
5) Use of expression, pointing to pictures, and other nonverbal strategies to make the story (English language) comprehensible.

Discussion Questions for Segment 1

As you reflect on what you have just seen in Ms. Cook’s classroom, can you answer the following questions?

- Why is teacher reflection an important part of teaching for all students and for ELLs in particular?
- What are some of the challenges that teachers of ELLs face?
Segment II
Kim Cook’s First Grade Classroom

Overview
This segment consists of additional strategies used by Ms. Cook in her elementary, mainstream classroom. It builds upon part one and provides an extended literacy (Big Book) lesson.

The following topics are introduced in the Video I, Segment II:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Content</th>
<th>Time Code (min’ sec”)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction to ELLs and English language ability levels</td>
<td>0’ 47’’ – 1’ 03’’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classroom as print rich environment</td>
<td>1’ 04’’ - 1’ 30’’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whole group big book read aloud</td>
<td>1’ 31’’ – 10’ 08’’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Making predictions, building vocabulary, comprehension, academic language</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Literacy stations and small group with ELLs</td>
<td>10’ 09’’ – 14’ 15’’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Checking comprehension, reinforcing vocabulary, small group</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grouping native speakers with ELLs for modeling and peer feedback</td>
<td>14’ 16’’ – 15’ 13’’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher reflection on ESOL strategies and the lesson</td>
<td>15’44’’ – 17’ 03’’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shifting gears, informal assessment to reteach or clarify</td>
<td>17’04’’ – 17’ 28’’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suggestions to teachers of ELLs</td>
<td>17’ 29’’ – 18’ 27’’</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A. Making language input comprehensible (Comprehensible Input)

In this video segment, Ms. Cook uses multiple strategies to ensure that her ELLs can acquire the language of schooling. She uses many verbal and nonverbal strategies throughout the language arts lesson. These strategies designed to make language understandable, have been referred to as comprehensible input (Krashen & Terrell, 1981).

The use of specific ESOL strategies that meet the needs of the ELL will support learning (from Herrell & Jordan, 2008, p. 208). Miss Cook uses the following strategies:

1) Visuals: transparencies, photos, graphs, charts
2) Realia: real objects related to the material being studied
3) Paraphrasing: restating the material in simple language
4) Physicalization: acting out the material, sometimes adding simple props

Highlights questions:

➢ Identify three ways that Ms. Cook makes language comprehensible for her ELLs. HINT: these could be verbal, nonverbal, written or oral

➢ How do her ELLs appear to respond?

B. The Language of Schooling

One of the key concepts mentioned by Ms. Cook is “academic language,” or the language that she feels all students, particularly ELLs, need to succeed in school. Academic language has been referred to as more demanding and complex than social, everyday language (Schleppegrell, 2004). It is also considered discipline-specific language or scientific terminology, reflecting complex sentence structures and low frequency words.

For example, in Ms. Cook’s lesson, cottage is not a word that her ELLs are likely to know. In addition, students need to understand the academic language of predicting, drawing conclusions, and evaluating, in order to make sense of how the story came full circle.

Highlights questions:

➢ Why does Ms. Cook believe that academic language is critical for her ELLs?

➢ What strategies does she use with her ELLs to develop academic language?

➢ How might academic language differ across the various grade levels?
Discussion Questions

As you reflect on what you have just seen in Ms. Cook’s classroom, can you answer the following questions?

- What does Ms. Cook mean by having to “shift gears daily” in her instruction? Why is this especially important when working with ELLs?

- What kind of flexibility is there in the curriculum for teachers? Why might your modifications for ELLs to the curriculum differ from those in the teaching guide?
Segment I
Sasha Abreu’s Third Grade Classroom

Overview
Sasha Abreu is a third grade, mainstream teacher who teaches in an inclusive classroom with students from diverse backgrounds. She has four ELLs. This segment focuses on the use of visual aids and vocabulary-building techniques as strategies she uses to support English language learning in a math class.

The following topics are covered in the Video 2, Segment I:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Content</th>
<th>Time Code (min’ sec”)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction to ELLs and English language ability levels</td>
<td>0’ 46” – 2’ 32”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction to the lesson and vocabulary building (word parts) related to fractions and real-world applications</td>
<td>2’ 33” – 3’ 51”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essential vocabulary building in mathematics</td>
<td>4’ 35” – 9’ 10”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equal</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fraction</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whole</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-ths</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Informal assessment with Show Down</td>
<td>12’ 57” – 13’ 05”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learning objective (essential question)</td>
<td>9’10” – 13’ 27”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher reflection on lesson and vocabulary</td>
<td>13’ 27” – 14’ 07”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A. Comprehensible Input in mathematics (see previous page).  

Strategies to make language comprehensible for ELLs may differ across disciplines. For example, in contrast to Ms. Cook’s Big Book lesson in language arts (Video 1, Segment II), Ms. Abreu uses different strategies in mathematics. Note the techniques and instructional practices that Ms. Abreu uses in order to make language input comprehensible for her ELLs. What discipline-specific strategies does she use in mathematics?

Some of Ms. Abreu’s strategies include rhyme, teaching the patterns in language (e.g., the ending –ths in mathematics), use of visual aids (such as the pizza), and the use of real world examples (related to “equal groups” and “equal”). The patterns and endings reflect the specific language objectives that Ms. Abreu set for her students. Language objectives are pre-determined and address the specific vocabulary, linguistic patterns, syntax, parts of speech, and other aspects of language that ELLs must learn.

**Highlights questions:**

- Can you identify additional strategies that Ms. Abreu uses in her lesson for ELLs?
- How does she structure the lesson so that ELLs can follow along?

B. Informal, Nonverbal Assessment through “Show Down”

Ms. Abreu uses Show Down as a method for informally assessing all of her students. For ELLs, this is especially valuable because it does not rely on oral language production of ELLs, and the students can demonstrate learning in unison with other students and not be “singled out.”

**Highlights questions:**

- How does Ms. Abreu “set up” the use of Show Down? In other words, how does she make sure that her ELLs are able to participate in Show Down?
- How does Ms. Abreu use Show Down as an informal assessment of her ELLs?
- How can Show Down be modified for use in small (rather than whole) groups?

**Discussion Questions**

As you reflect on what you have just seen in Ms. Abreu’s classroom, can you answer the following questions?

- How does Ms. Abreu build vocabulary in the lesson for her ELLs?
- What did not work in the lesson and how will she resolve it?
Segment II
Sasha Abreu’s Third Grade Classroom

Overview
This segment focuses on Ms. Abreu’s use of ESOL strategies in her math class. In addition to verbal and nonverbal strategies that facilitate her ELLs’ learning, Ms. Abreu uses grouping strategies to ensure that her students feel “safe” and are able to produce language in small groups. She also discusses home-school communication strategies with non-English speaking parents, and provides some suggestions for teachers of ELLs working in mainstream classroom settings.

The following topics are covered in Video 2, Segment II:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Content</th>
<th>Time Code (min’ sec”)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction to ELLs and English language ability levels</td>
<td>0’ 40” – 2’ 03”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grouping ELLs for language development</td>
<td>2’ 03” – 2’ 52”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teaching strategies for ELLs’ learning</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shoulders partners, visuals, nonverbal responses, movement</td>
<td>2’ 53” – 5’ 00”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rhyme and learning through song</td>
<td>5’ 00” – 5’ 54”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gradual release and think aloud (modeling) for ELLs</td>
<td>5’ 55” – 7’ 43”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teaching mathematics, using speech inflection, nonverbal responses</td>
<td>7’ 44” – 11’ 07”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Show Down) for ELLs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daily language versus academic language for ELLs</td>
<td>11’ 08” – 11’ 36”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advice for teachers of ELLs: Planning lessons “ahead”</td>
<td>11’ 37” –</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knowing the ELL (home, academic and language background)</td>
<td>12’ 12” – 13’ 00”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No assuming what they (don’t) know</td>
<td>13’ 00” – 13’ 44”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communicating with parents of ELLs</td>
<td>13’ 45” – 14’ 25”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Being an ELL and the “culture of power”</td>
<td>14’ 26” – 15’ 06”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A. Gradual Release Model with ELLs (adapted from Levy, 2007)

Ms. Abreu chooses to follow a gradual release model to facilitate learning of all her students. This model is especially useful for ELLs because their learning is “scaffolded” or supported by the use of modeling (by the teacher), group (together), and followed by a paired or independent demonstration of the work.

One example of the Gradual Release Model is below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Teacher</th>
<th>Student</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I Do</td>
<td>Provides direct instruction</td>
<td>Active listening</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Think aloud and model</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>We Do</td>
<td>Interactive instruction</td>
<td>Works with teacher and classmates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Interacts with students</td>
<td>Completes with other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You Do</td>
<td>Provides feedback</td>
<td>Works alone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Independently)</td>
<td>Evaluates</td>
<td>Responsible for outcome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You Do</td>
<td>Rotates among groups</td>
<td>Works with classmates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Together)</td>
<td>Clarifies</td>
<td>Collaborates actively</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(adapted from Levy, 2007)

Highlights question:

Compare and contrast Ms. Abreu’s use of the Gradual Release Model (3-steps) with the model (4-steps) above.

Why do you think she chooses to modify this with her ELLs?
B. Home-School Communication with Non-English Speaking Families

The use of students’ home language is crucial for home-school communication. Ongoing home-school communication between teachers and parents or caregivers has been found to support student learning outcomes. Federal guidelines dictate that teachers (schools) should communicate with students’ parents or caregivers in a language that they understand whenever possible.

In addition, The No Child Left Behind Act (2001) sets an ambitious definition of parent involvement for districts and schools receiving Title I funds. In Section 1118 of the law, it defines the issue as “the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication” about student learning.” Communicating with parents is an important part of the teaching profession.

Ms. Abreu uses her native language, Spanish, to communicate with Spanish-speaking parents of ELLs.

Highlights questions:

- Why is the use of the native language important for ELLs’ learning? How might the native language be used in your classroom?

- What considerations do teachers of ELLs need to take into account in order to use the native language to communicate with parents or caregivers?

Discussion Questions

As you reflect on what you have just seen in Ms. Abreu’s classroom, can you answer the following questions?

- How does she demonstrate the think aloud strategy with her ELLs and why is it important?

- What is a gradual release model and how does Ms. Abreu use this strategy in the teaching of ELLs?

- What advice does Ms. Abreu give new teachers of ELLs when planning a lesson?

- How does Ms. Abreu communicate with parents? What role does Spanish play in her teaching?
References


Migration Policy Institute (2010b). *States and districts with the highest number and share of ELLs*. Retrieved from http://www.migrationinformation.org/ellinfo/FactSheet_ELL2.pdf


