

ELL realities:

- becoming proficient in the use of a second language takes time
- language learning is complex and can vary between two similar students
- English language proficiency & knowledge of Canadian culture are important for student success (see Ministry of Education – ESL Policies and Guidelines – 2009)
- parents play a vital role by working in partnership with educators

Two Types of Language Proficiency

1. Conversational fluency

- conversational fluency is often acquired to a functional level within about **two years**
- used for social communication
- this is the language of the playground - the language of the neighborhood
- this is **NOT** the language of the formal classroom

2. Academic English - language required for success in the classroom.

- at least **five years** is usually required to catch up to native speakers in academic aspects of the second language
- many studies show **five to seven years** are needed.
 - it is a serious mistake to equate social language fluency with being ready and able to transition into English-only mainstream classrooms.
- academic language is more formal and more technical.
- written language is even more formal and more technical than oral language thereby taking even longer to master.

ELL Services

—designed to further the intellectual and social development of English Language Learners by:

- strengthening their ability to communicate fluently
- helping with academic progress
- helping them experience a sense of self worth
- providing a safe & nurturing environment

from an English Language Learner's perspective:

“Learning English is really hard work!!”

Reading stories, poetry and novels, and learning Math, Science and Social Studies in English takes a long time and I do try really hard to learn as fast as I can.

-about ELL (LST) Teachers:

- They speak more slowly and clearly.
- They give me examples and show pictures to help me understand.
- They show me how the English language works.
- They teach me new words everyday.
- They have examples of what a good project or essay looks like
- They give me time to think before I answer questions in class.
- They teach me strategies to help me take notes and study.
- They really listen and try to understand me.