



ONLINE: Language Acquisition

“I learned information that I will use to teach English Language Learners.”

– Patricia F.

Delve into theories of the language acquisition process, and uncover practical ways for teachers to help English Language Learners understand lesson content.

Through the strategies and information provided in this course, teachers are equipped to meet students at their specific stage of language learning and create aligned activities thus helping students achieve higher levels of linguistic fluency.

The techniques presented cover the acquisition and mastery of literacy skills for students including reading, writing and dialogue, as well as understanding and supporting English Language Learners at a deeper level.



Standards:

This course aligns to the INTASC Standards including Learner Development, Learning Differences, Learning Environments, Content Knowledge, Application of Content, Planning for Instruction and Instructional Strategies.

It also aligns to the McRel Teacher Evaluation Standards including Teacher Leadership, Diverse Learners, Teachers Know Content and Teachers Analyze and Reflect.

Each online PD course includes:

- **Convenient access** anytime, anywhere, any device
- Interactive **online** textbook
- Implement **practical suggestions** immediately
- Demonstrate comprehension with **quizzes** and checks for understanding
- Print **certificates** of completion
- Easily assign courses to align with each teacher's **personalized PD needs**
- **Integrate** with school and district-wide initiatives
- **Low cost solution for all courses, all teachers, all school year**
- **Reports** for school administrators



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Course Outline

LESSON 1: Introduction to Language Acquisition

- Considering how language is acquired
- Distinction between learning and acquiring a language
- Rules of Language
- Two types of language acquisition -Basic Interpersonal Communication Skills (BICS) and Cognitive Academic Language Proficiency (CALP); and their classroom implications
- The meanings and need for Comprehensible Input and Interactionism in the classroom
- Age related considerations in the acquisition of a language and related pronunciations

LESSON 2: The Acquisition Process

- The stages of language acquisition and the characteristics, duration and strategies of each; The Silent Period, Early Production, Speech Emergence, Intermediate Proficiency, Advanced Proficiency
- Reception and production of oral language vs. reception and production of written language
- Reciprocity between oral skills and written skills in second languages

LESSON 3: Literacy Skills - Reading

- Why Literacy skills are essential to school success
- "Balanced Literacy" approach and its principles
- Choosing appropriate texts
- The Language Experience Approach for early reading development with first Language Learners
- Context-based activities that can be used with emergent readers in diverse classrooms
- Top-down approaches to reading and phonics for a balanced literacy program

LESSON 4: Writing and Dialogue

- Shared or modeled writing to benefit writers at early stages
- Free writing vs. a structured writing approach, and using a balanced approach of both
- Dialogue journals, to foster on going written conversation between two students or between the teacher and a student
- Process writing stages – Prewriting, Drafting, Peer Review, Revising and Publishing
- Using Instructional Conversation (IC) effectively and ensuring authenticity