

DoDDS-Europe

English as a Second Language Program

Guide for Parents



To have another language is to have another soul.

Goethe

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE (ESL) PROGRAM

WHAT IS ESL?

Students entering our schools represent many nationalities and cultures, and many of these students arrive with little or no knowledge of the English language. Some have developed a high level of oral skills, but are performing below grade level due to their limited ability to read and write in English. A supplemental educational program is required to help these students become successful in the regular classroom. DoDDS-Europe provides ESL, which is a language acquisition program designed to teach English language learners social and academic skills as well as the cultural aspects of the English language necessary to succeed in an academic environment.

WHAT ARE THE GOALS?

The goals of the ESL program are

1. Use English to communicate effectively in a social setting
2. Use English to achieve academic standards in all content areas
3. Use English in socially and culturally appropriate ways.

HOW DOES THE PROGRAM WORK?

A. The student selection process

1. Students are identified through the home language survey, or by teacher or parent referral
2. Students are screened and assessed, if indicated. *
3. Based on assessments and a review of student records, the ESL team at each school makes recommendations for the student's program.
4. Eligible students are enrolled in ESL. *

*Sponsor approval required

B. The ESL instructional program

1. Students are provided a sequenced curriculum to develop and refine listening comprehension, oral expression, reading, writing, and thinking skills.
2. Students may receive ESL instruction within their regular classroom from the ESL teacher, on a pullout schedule outside the regular classroom, or directly from the classroom teacher who consults with the ESL teacher on a regular basis.

3. Students are evaluated annually and these results, as well as information collected from the classroom teacher and other educators, are used to determine the next steps in the student's program.

C. Program exit

1. Student demonstrates the ability to meet grade level performance standards in all content areas, and
2. On recommendation from classroom teacher and ESL teacher

WHO PARTICIPATES?

All students identified as having limited or no English language proficiency are eligible to enroll in the ESL program at their school. Language proficiency skills may range from no English skills to advanced English skills. Sponsors of English language learners have the right to waive ESL services.

GOOD PRACTICES FOR PARENTS OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

1. Continue speaking your native language with your child. Discuss events around the home in both your native language and in English. This helps to make the home an enriched language environment. Students who have mastered two languages are often the most successful students.
2. Encourage reading in the home language and/or in English.
3. Share oral histories and traditional folk tales from your native country. Participate in cultural activities and celebrate various holidays to show that all cultures have value.
5. Discuss school activities with your child. Provide a time and place where homework can be done.
6. Take time to listen and ask questions when your child is expressing ideas or telling stories.
7. Take this opportunity to learn English along with your child. Ask to see your child's books, assignments, and tests. Help your child with schoolwork and become involved at school.

Please remember that language learning is a natural process and takes time. Be patient and encouraging with your child and celebrate all learning experiences.

COMMON QUESTIONS

How can I help my child?

The schools encourage parents to be partners in the education of their children. You can help by:

- * visiting the classroom and the ESL teacher.
- * taking part in school activities.
- * working together on school assignments.

How long does it take to learn English?

Students learn at different rates. They may receive instruction from one to eight years.

Should I stop speaking my native language at home and speak English only?

No, students are encouraged to continue to develop their first language as they acquire English. Proficiency in the native language makes learning a second language easier.

For more information on DoDDS programs, visit www.dodea.edu