

# Teaching English Language Learners

## Project POSIT Summer Institute

June 18, 2007

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### A Lesson in Chinese

#### OUSD Statistics

- 48,000 students in OUSD K-12
- 28.3% of the District K-12 are ELL (~17% students 6-12)
- 76% speak Spanish
- 9% speak Cantonese (Chinese)
- 4% speak Vietnamese
- 10% speak 60+ other languages

#### Questions ELL Students Ask Themselves

- Does the teacher know who I am? Do you care about me?
- Do you want me to succeed?
- Do you realize that I am not intellectually limited, even though I am not able to express myself completely in English?
- Do you understand the fear of embarrassment I must overcome every time I open my mouth to speak, participate in a group, or hand in written work?
- Do you see me as a potential contributor to scientific knowledge?

#### Stages of Language Acquisition

#### Connections between Science and Language

#### Engaging ELL Students

- Intrinsic Motivation
  - Curiosity (puzzles, magic, challenges, discrepant events)
  - Interests
  - Desire for self expression or originality
  - Valuing their perspective and cultural experience
- Beliefs
  - Believing and experiencing success
  - Dealing with past failures
- Relationships
  - Peers, grouping, sense of belonging
  - Teacher support, constructive feedback
- Classroom Structure
  - Organization
  - Varied strategies, multiple intelligence
  - Scaffolding difficult concepts, passages, and skills

## **Examples of Strategies in Action**

1. Vocabulary
  - a. Ways to Study Vocabulary Words
  - b. Vocabulary Card Puzzles
2. Anticipation Guides
3. Graphic Organizers
4. Metaphors and Analogies
  - a. Travel Brochures/Posters
5. Comics or Stories
  - a. WWE - Mitosis
  - b. Venus teaches the atom
6. Writing Children's Books
  - a. Cabbage Juice Book
  - b. Digestive System Book
7. Writing Narrative Stories
  - a. Forensic Science Investigation

## **Additional Reading**

- What is Classroom Instruction that Works? from *Classroom Instruction that Works* by Hill & Flynn (2006)
- Strategies for Teaching Science to English Learners from *Science for English Language Learners* by Fathamán & Crowther (2006)

## **Evaluations and Wrap Up**