

English As An Additional Language

Education

Learning the language of instruction while learning everything taught in it.

Conversational fluency arrives years before academic language does.

What to expect

Everyday fluency in roughly 1-2 years

Academic language takes 5-7 years

A silent period is normal and not refusal

First-language literacy speeds the second

EAL is not a special educational need

What helps

Pre-teach the vocabulary a lesson depends on

Use visuals, models and demonstrations

Give sentence stems for written answers

Allow use of the first language to think

Assess subject knowledge separately from English

Educational reference. Cummins distinguished conversational from academic language; treating the first as evidence of the second is a