

Supporting English Language Learners in Math

Math Structure	Possible challenges for ELLs	Suggested differentiation strategies to support ELLs
Warm-ups	Too much teacher talk Unknown or misunderstood vocabulary	 Provide multiple opportunities for turn and talk or active engagement Use realia, gestures, pictures and/or graphics to make language comprehensible Make your speaking simple and clear Establish routines that help ELLs focus on content and language
Whole class instruction Or Mini- lesson	Lack of support and feedback Specialized technical vocabulary	 Be explicit in your instruction Preteach key vocabulary to scaffold understanding Assess and reteach to support understanding Allow newcomer ELLs to write in their native language Allow newcomer ELLs to copy teacher or echo responses if needed Allow beginning and intermediate ELLs to draw and label Support frequently with one on one conferring or small group instruction
Small group instruction	Limited talk time Ability to express mathematical thinking	 Provide visuals and make learning visible for students Demonstrate and model using think-alouds Support using anchor charts and sentence frames Support using structured conversations such as Talking Heads and Q Triple S A Groups should be fluid and homogenous (by students' needs)
Math workshop	Structure of workshop Partners are unsure what to do	 Establish simple routines and procedures and teach them explicitly Support ELLs with sentence frames aligned to their language level Provide students with related manipulatives, visuals and graphics Pair beginner ELLs with a buddy who can help them acclimate to the math workshop during the initial phase
Conferences	Little student conversation Too lengthy	 Meet frequently with beginning and intermediate ELLs Design questions that meet the students' proficiency levels Practice wait time and provide a sentence starter when needed Provide descriptive and timely feedback while building a relationship
Anchor charts & Wall space	Premade Too many words	 Display class-made anchor charts that show math processes Label with plenty of graphics and pictures Keep icons consistently throughout the building (ex: a book is the same in your room and the library) Color chunk wording on chart and visuals Write in a step-by-step format Keep charts up and available and refer to them frequently Provide smaller copies to ELLs (artifact) Create in front of students Use interactive word walls created with students