

## SECOND LANGUAGE ACQUISITION AT HOME

Tips & Tools for English Learner  
Parents and Families



### 1 LISTEN

Find music you like with lyrics in English and listen to the sounds, patterns, rhythm, and tone. You can even begin to sing along. Don't worry if you don't know what it means just yet. Try listening to your favorite movie or TV show in English - add the subtitles in your first language.



### 2 SPEAK

Learn a new word or phrase and practice it for a week. Use it with your family, friends and even people you see at school, the park or out shopping. If you feel nervous, you can start out by practicing in the mirror! Challenge yourself to add a new word or phrase to your vocabulary every week. Don't worry if people reply and you don't understand, you'll get there!



### 3 READ

Picture books aren't just for young children! You can read along with the family, or on your own. Visit your school or public library (it's free to anyone) and find books that look interesting to you. You may also find bilingual books with text in both languages. You can also use the TV trick above, but add the captions in English and try to read along while you listen in your first language.



### 4 WRITE

Just as you try to speak new words or phrases, also try writing them out. You can add in English words or phrases in text or social media messages, or start by writing short notes to your kids, family or friends. Another idea is to have your own daily English journal to keep track of your progress and learning.



### 5 SHARE

Do you have questions or ideas about practicing new language at home? Please share them with us so that we can spread the love and learning!  
@RIOELSupport #RIOELParents



### 6 STAY TUNED...

Coming up next month, we'll be sharing more tools, tips, and strategies to help your students attain English proficiency and develop high levels of academic achievement.

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## BUILDING ACADEMIC SUCCESS

Tips & Tools for English Learner  
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### 1 VOCABULARY

In order for students to be successful in school, they need to learn academic vocabulary. This is the language necessary to understand and discuss content in the classroom. Make sure that your student is getting exposure to the vocabulary used in science, social studies, math, and other school subjects - even if you don't understand the words!



### 2 TIME

While social language develops more quickly and naturally, within 1 to 2 years, academic language proficiency can take 5 to 7 years. It requires time and practice. Understanding this process, and explaining it to your child, can prevent discouragement or frustration with the new language.



### 3 STUDY SKILLS

Studying also takes practice. Start by minimizing distractions. Having a designated time and place to study will help build good habits. Some like to study in a quiet corner, some might prefer a patio. Some like to study with music, some prefer quiet. Some like to review right after school, some need a break first. Help your child find what works best for them.



### 4 GROWTH MINDSET

Part of learning involves struggle, frustration, and sometimes failure. Working through that builds perseverance and the ability to face challenges with grit and determination. Begin by practicing the Power of Yet. Say "I can't do this...yet" instead of "I can't do this". Try it out the next time you're frustrated with new learning.



### 5 SHARE

Do you have questions or ideas about building academic success? Please share them with us so that we can spread the love and learning!  
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## Virtual Coffee Chat TIPS AND TOOLS FOR EL PARENTS AND FAMILIES

*Topics:  
Supporting  
Language  
Acquisition at Home  
&  
Building Academic  
Success*

March 23, 2021

1:00-1:30 PM

Register here:

<http://bit.ly/March23CoffeeChat>

