

- Using someone else's words and/or ideas as your own is called plagiarism. It is considered a very serious offence.
- Personal planning and family life education is a mandatory part of the curriculum.
- Physical education is part of the curriculum for both boys and girls.
- It is against the law to hit students for any reason.

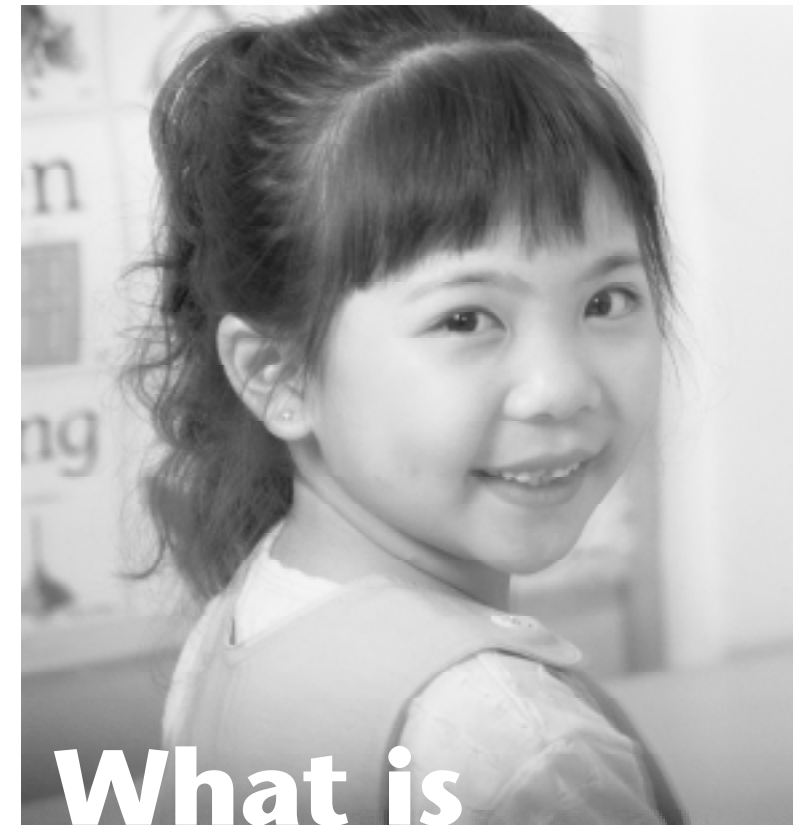
### ► **How do I know how my child is doing in school?**

- Initially your child will be assessed to determine his/her ability to use English.
- All students are assessed at regular intervals in all subject areas.
- Formal reports on student progress differ depending on the age of the learners. Primary students (K–3) do not receive letter grades.
- ESL learners do not receive letter grades in the early stages of English language learning. In this case, teachers supply written comments.
- Even when letter grades are given, they may mean different things here. Ask your child's teachers to clarify.



### ► **How can I help my child?**

- Create a quiet place and a regular time to do homework and study.
- Talk to your child about what is happening at school.
- Encourage your child to show you all school work.
- Read with your child.
- Learning in a new language takes lots of energy. Ensure that your child gets plenty of rest.
- Help your child to find opportunities to use English outside of school.
- Be patient. Understand that learning a language is a complex, long-term process.



## What is **ESL Support?**

► **ESL support** (English as a Second Language) is an additional school service provided to enable your children to succeed in the grade-level classroom. ESL teachers work with classroom teachers to help children develop English language skills, cultural awareness and learning strategies which they will need to work successfully with the B.C. school curriculum.

## ► What might ESL support look like?

Depending on where you live, ESL support might be organized in one of three ways:

- self-contained classes of only ESL learners
- pull-out support—small groups for specialized language instruction
- in-class support—support teacher assists with classroom learning

## ► What is involved in learning a new language?

Learning a new language is more complicated and takes longer than many people think. It is much more than learning correct grammar and vocabulary. This is why it can take many years to learn enough English to be academically successful.

To begin with, your child may:

- listen only and speak little, if at all
- use simple English when speaking with friends
- read and write words
- copy simple sentence patterns and read them
- write their own simple sentences and read them
- have English conversations with friends.

All these things are what teachers call social language learning.



If students are to be successful academically, they need to learn a more sophisticated level of English, which includes the language of subject areas (e.g., social studies, science, mathematics). Learning academic English is much more complex and takes much longer than social language learning.

Success at this level includes:

- using subject vocabulary appropriately
- reading content textbooks with understanding
- being able to describe, classify, evaluate, and sequence information
- understanding how to make choices or determine the principles of comparing and contrasting, cause and effect, etc.
- being able to go beyond literal comprehension.

Because language learning is a long and complicated process, some students will find school life difficult. You may notice some or all of the following:

- Enthusiasm and excitement in the early months that turns into frustration and anger.
- Refusing to speak or speaking very little in English.
- Frequently feeling unwell or not wanting to go to school at all.
- Rejecting their own language and culture.
- Changes in behaviour both at home and at school.
- Time with friends becomes more important than time with family.

These behaviours and attitudes are fairly common and will often disappear with time. If you are concerned about your child, speak with the classroom and ESL teacher at the school.

## ► How is school different in British Columbia?

- Attendance at school is mandatory.
- Learning occurs in many different ways, including: playing games, singing, music, drama, art, working in groups, and students talking with other students.
- Leaving the school for learning experiences (field trips) is seen as an important part of schooling.
- Memorization is seldom used as a way of learning.
- Homework is part of school life. All students are expected to complete homework. Primary students (K–3) will be expected to read at home but not do much in the way of writing. Older students should be reading daily and will be assigned subject area homework on a regular basis.
- The teacher-student relationship is often fairly informal.
- Teachers welcome contact with parents both informally and at reporting times.
- As they get older, students are expected to take more and more responsibility for their own learning.



## Should I continue to use our first language with my child?

YES! There is much research to suggest that the more highly developed a student's first language is the more successful they will be in acquiring a second language.