



## *Tips for Parents of English Language Learners\**

*\*A more detailed version of these tips which includes examples of activities is available by contacting [satkins@stjweb.org](mailto:satkins@stjweb.org)*

Dear Parents,

At Saint James School we want all of our students to grow and learn in a caring and academically challenging environment where they consistently experience success! English Language Learners have a special challenge because they are adjusting to an English speaking school environment. We are so proud of them and all that they accomplish each year!

Below are some general tips for parents of English Language Learners which can help students transition into an English speaking school environment by helping them develop English skills more rapidly. More detailed information and additional strategies will be provided at the International Parent Orientation.

Please feel free to contact us at any time if you have questions!

### **Tips for Building an English Vocabulary**

*Learning the VOCABULARY of any new language is considered to be the key to understanding what students hear or read during the school day. It is very helpful for English Language Learners to build their English vocabulary as quickly as possible to increase learning of both the English language and new concepts and ideas.*

1. Parents should try to speak English at home at some point each day. It is very difficult for students to learn a new language if the language is not reinforced at home consistently.
2. Read aloud with your student in both English and their native language each day.
3. Encourage your student to continue to read for pleasure in their own language even while learning English.
4. Have your student create a scrapbook, journal, or diary of their time in the United States.
5. Help your student make a personal dictionary with vocabulary words they are learning.

6. Use art to increase English vocabulary.
7. Watch appropriate English language television programs or DVD's with your student or use Sing-Along or Storybook music tapes.
8. Commit to learning English with your student.
9. Use Rosetta Stone Classroom each day to practice English.
10. Use the internet to find and access websites with ESL practice activities.

### **General Tips**

1. Bring your student to Saint James events outside the school day so that they feel happy and comfortable at school!
2. When possible, encourage your student to become involved in one of the many after school activities that are available.
3. Establish a good study routine.
4. Remember that teachers at Saint James offer tutoring to all students each week.
5. Make sure you let your student know that you think that school is important and encourage him or her to complete homework, participate in class, and ask questions as they begin to feel comfortable in their new
6. Talk to your student about how the culture of the American school setting may differ from the one they have previously experienced.
7. **Remember the Basics! Practice makes perfect!**
  - \* Learning a new language takes time to comprehend and practice. Be realistic about how quickly your student can progress and be patient!
  - \* Making mistakes is part of the learning process.
  - \* Students are both active and passive learners. They typically “understand” and “recognize” new English words before they are comfortable “speaking” or “writing” them. This is a normal part of the process of acquiring a second language.
  - \* English Language Learners cannot absorb everything they are exposed to every day. It takes time!

English Language Learners typically improve their English proficiency at an amazing pace!!! We are so proud of them!!!!!!