

What Can Parents Do to Help Improve Their Children's English?

- Encourage your child to read extensively in his /her first language as well as in English.
- Allow an extended period of instruction for your child to achieve language and academic competence. Social language competence can be acquired much faster than academic language competence. Be patient, understanding, and supportive.
- Express appreciation for all achievements your child makes in English, even if it is only a simple sentence or a short journal. It is highly important for you to remember to praise your child for every step forward in language development. Your child needs constant encouragement.
- Encourage your child to join an English summer / winter camp or study tour to English – speaking country.
- Encourage your child to join English activity groups after school.
- Do not create anxiety or doubt. These may interfere with your child's progress in learning a new language.
- Some English learning materials, e.g. literary classics, are likely available in the first language of the ESL student. It is recommended that parents purchase or borrow versions of

relevant books in the student's first language. This may help him or her gain a deeper understanding of the literary works.

- Last but not least, discover and promote your child's particular interests. English materials in the child's areas of interest can greatly motivate them to read English resources and learn the language.

Useful ESL Resources for Parents and Students Information on the Internet;

- Comenius English Language Center: www.comenius.com
- Dave's ESL Café on the Web: www.eslcafe.com
- Helpful in almost all aspects of language learning: speaking, listening, reading, writing and grammar.
- Self-study quizzes for ESL students:
www.aitech.ac.jp/~iteslj/quizzes
- Pick from more than 900 quizzes on all aspects of English vocabulary and grammar.
- Many are tied to specific topics. Student can learn about holidays, cultures or other content areas.

- Topics online magazine for ESL learners:
www.rice.edu/projects/topics/Electronic/Magazine.html

- A forum and meeting place for ESL students worldwide.
Students can write articles on any topic share their cultural traditions or express themselves by writing an editorial or a movie review.

- All types of English books appropriate for your child's English level.

Remember: Encourage your child to read extensively and write book summaries. There are a wide variety of choices, such as National Geography English Readers and New Standard English Readers (published by Foreign Language Teaching and Research Press), now available on the Thai market.