

English Language Learners

- English language learners (ELL) are students whose first language is a language other than English, or is a variety of English that is significantly different from the English used in Ontario schools
- These students may be Canadian-born or they may be newcomers from other countries

Facts around Language Acquisition

- Research shows it takes 5 to 7 years to become proficient in a new language
- Day-to-day language generally develops within the first 2 years
- Academic language which is needed to be successful in school can take 5 to 7 years and sometimes longer to develop proficiency in
- Children who are strong in the first language will learn English better than children who stop learning in their first language

Programming in Durham for an English language learner in Kindergarten

- English language learners are enrolled in the regular kindergarten program
- ELLs will receive support from the classroom teacher and the ECE within the classroom
- ELLs will be encouraged to use their first language within the kindergarten classroom and English as they learn it within the school environment

For more information please visit
the Durham District School Board website:

www.ddsbsb.ca

English Language Learners in Kindergarten



Tips for Parents of English Language Learners in Kindergarten

TIP 1

Talk to your children in your first language

Tips for Parents of English Language Learners in Kindergarten

Tip 1

Talk to your children in your first language

- Provides your child with a rich vocabulary
- Helps to explain the world around them in a language they understand
- Helps to raise a bilingual child

Tip 2:

Discuss with your children what they learned in school in your first language

- Helps a child to explain his or her thinking
- Reinforces new academic words they learned in school
- Allows you to share your background knowledge about your child's learning in your first language

Tip 3:

Read every day to your child in their first language as well as English

- Reading daily sets a routine
- Stories online are available that can be read to your children in English and in your first language

Resources

Unite for Literacy

Link: <http://www.uniteforliteracy.com>

A free website that offers books for students to read. The narration button allows for the story to be read in 37 languages as well as English.

The screenshot shows the Unite for Literacy website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with icons for English, Narration, Search, and Categories. Below the navigation bar, there are three featured book collections:

- Featured Books: New and Favorite** (view collection): Includes book covers for "The Bowling Alley", "Peanut Butter and Jelly Song", "The Incredible Underground World of the Naked Tailed Armadillo", "Violet Divides", "Kangaroos in the Treetops", and "LET'S RIDE!".
- Unite US: Let's Go Outside** (view collection): Includes book covers for "Follow Your Feet", "Go Fish!", "Play Ball!", "Get Wet!", "A Hot Summer Day", and "Let's Go Camping".
- Association of Zoos and Aquariums: Wildlife Conservation** (view collection): Includes book covers for "SAWFISH", "Meet Rosie!", "African Wild Dogs", "Bats Dare to Be Different", "ANIMALS Up, Down, All Around", and "Be a Friend to Frogs!".

The **Durham District School Board** website (DDSB.ca) offers, under the Parents tab, access to the Learning Commons. In the Reading section of the Learning Commons, there are many websites that offer students free books to read and a place to practice literacy skills.

Username: **durham**

Password: **research12**

The screenshot shows the DDSB Learning Commons website. The "Parents tab" is highlighted in the navigation menu. Below the navigation menu, there is a section titled "The Doorway To Information" with a "Reading" sub-section. The "Reading" section includes "Online Reading" with several resource icons: "abdo (digital) ABDO eBooks", "BookFLIX", "Storyline Online", "Starfall", "Gale Virtual Reference Library", "International Children's Digital Library", and "Public Libraries".

The International Children's Digital Library offers books in other languages for students.

