

STARTALK

Principles for Effective Teaching & Learning

Using the Target Language and Providing Comprehensible Input

Teachers facilitate learning through the use of the target language and ensure that the target language is used at least 90 percent of the time. Teachers deliberately determine if and when it is necessary to translate. Teachers use a variety of strategies to make the target language comprehensible and frequently check for understanding in a variety of ways in order to modify input as necessary. Learners have frequent meaningful opportunities for target language production and are able to engage in learning activities without resorting to their native language.

Learner Experiences & Teacher Responsibilities

The identified learner experiences are possible because of the work done by the teacher. The corresponding teacher responsibilities provide guidance for the teacher by indicating key criteria from the Teacher Effectiveness for Language Learning (TELL) Framework.

- **Learners are immersed in a language-rich environment in which they have frequent opportunities for interpreting, expressing, and negotiating meaning in a real-world context.**

The teacher ensures that at least 90% of what is shared with students is in the target language. *TELL Learning Experience: LE3.a*

- **Learners engage in activities to demonstrate comprehension in a variety of ways that do not require language production.**

The teacher uses a variety of verbal and nonverbal strategies to make language comprehensible. *TELL Learning Experience: LE3.c*

- **Learners demonstrate that they understand what they have heard, read, or viewed before engaging in interpersonal and presentational tasks.**

The teacher ensures that students have sufficient time to process in the interpretive mode before producing language. *TELL Learning Experience: LE3.g*

- **Learners engage in activities that require them to produce language in a meaningful context.**

The teacher consciously monitors teacher talk in order to maximize student opportunities to produce language. *TELL Learning Experience: LE4.e*

- **Learners use a variety of strategies that allow them to stay in the target language.**

The teacher provides students with strategies that enable them to stay in the target language. *TELL Learning Experience: LE4.d*



Explore the STARTALK Principles in action:
startalk.umd.edu/public/principles



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