

Year-Long Guide for Working with Low-Literate English Learners

Topic	✓	Life Skills	✓	Academic	✓	Activities
Personal Information	✓	Spell name	✓	Alphabet	✓	ABC flashcards
	✓	Say phone number	✓	Numbers 0 to 10	✓	Number / letter Bingo
	✓	Write address	✓	I, you, he, she	✓	Address envelope, mail a letter
	✓	Fill out basic form	✓		✓	Complete basic forms
	✓		✓		✓	Ask for spelling
	✓		✓		✓	Give dictations
Starting Class	✓	Identify classroom objects	✓	Identify questions	✓	Practice classroom commands
	✓	Locate objects	✓	Differentiate words, letters, sentences	✓	Vocab practice with pictures
	✓	Communicate with teacher	✓	Classroom commands	✓	Practice "Where is the pencil?"
	✓		✓	Prepositions of location	✓	Practice commands: circle, underline, say, read, write
Days and Dates	✓	Understand days of week	✓	Numbers 1 to 30	✓	Days of week flashcards
	✓	Make and keep appointments	✓	Today, tomorrow, yesterday	✓	Order calendar pages
	✓	Give birthday	✓	What? When?	✓	Write birthdays and holidays on calendar
	✓	Understand dates written numerically	✓		✓	
Telling Time	✓	Ask for the time	✓	Numbers 1 to 60	✓	Make a clock of a paper plate
	✓	Make and keep appointments	✓	Morning, afternoon, night	✓	Ask for and say the time
	✓	Say the time	✓	Asking polite questions	✓	Read a variety of types of clocks
	✓	Read digital and analog clocks	✓		✓	Time dictation: listen and draw
Family	✓	Give personal information	✓	Who?	✓	Family tree
	✓	Talk about family	✓	He vs. she	✓	Family photos
	✓	Age	✓	How old ...?	✓	Dictations: listen and write about a picture
	✓		✓	He is ___ years old.	✓	Talk about famous families
	✓		✓	Numbers 1 to 100	✓	

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Money		Understand prices		How much?		Differentiate coins
		Paying at a store		Numbers 1 to 100		Count out \$1 with coins
		Asking for prices		Reading prices		Ask "How much is the ___?"
		Counting money		Asking polite questions		Role play paying for the bus, ...
		Writing a check or money order				Practice writing checks or money orders
Food		Communicate at the grocery store		Fruit, vegetable, and food staples vocabulary		Vocabulary pictures
		Make a shopping list		Like, don't like		Cut out pictures from grocery store ads
		Understand price per pound				Field trip to grocery store
		Talk about likes and dislikes				Conversation: "Do you like ___?"
Body, Sickness and Doctors		Identify body parts		Am, is, are		Vocabulary pictures
		Describe pain or illness		Have, has		Sing: "Head, shoulders, knees, and toes."
		Tell teacher why a child is home from school		How many?		Play Simon Says
		Read medicine bottle		What's the matter?		Look at real medicine bottles
		Make a doctor appointment		Vocabulary: body, sickness, medicine (tablet, tablespoon, warning, ...)		Role play: call to make an appointment
						Activities with picture stories
Using the Phone		Calling school		Phone-specific phrases: "Who is it?" "This is Amy."		Vocabulary pictures
		Making appointments		Emergency vocabulary		Role play: talking on the phone
		Calling 911				Various scenarios: What would you do?
						Use cell phone to practice
						When to call 911

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Daily Activities		Communicate with others		Simple present tense verbs		Vocabulary pictures
		Make a schedule		Day and time review		Play charades with vocabulary
		Express likes and dislikes		"Do you like ___?"		Make a daily schedule
				I, you, he, she, we, they		Conversation: like/don't like
Using the Library		Check out books		Question words		Bring example of library materials
		Access library resources for family		Alphabetical order		Fill out library card application
		Get a library card				Tour of library
		Return books				
		Understand fines				
Giving Directions		Ask polite questions		Prepositions of location		Vocabulary pictures
		Understand directions		Commands		Practice with local maps
		Give directions		Left, right		Role play giving directions
						Make a 3D neighborhood model
Describing People		Identify people		Subject pronouns		Vocabulary pictures with physical descriptions
		Describe classmates, family and community members, etc.		Possessive pronouns		Vocabulary pictures with emotions
						Magazine pictures
						Family photos

*Adapted from: Albany Park Community Center, Chicago. Lindsay Crammond and Amy Jaret
Received from: PAACE Conference 2001, Beginning ESL, presented by Nancy Krygowski and Allegra Elson*