

English Language Learner - Case Two

Name: Abebe, Kwame

Age: 9 years old

Exceptionality: English Language Learner (ELL) First Generation from Zimbabwe → Level *B1

* Kwame can converse about abstract ideas and understands instructions- he uses simple language to convey his meanings- limited, but growing English vocabulary *

Accommodations: I use pictures in the games and activities so he does not have to read the words, there is a dictionary on the wall of new words we have learned with pictures beside them (which he can refer to at any time), instructions for activities are clear and concise.

Modifications: he has a tablet that he keeps at school for translations of instructions, he also has a personal copy of the dictionary word wall laminated in his notebook (to which he can add his own newfound English words and pictures), for tests he is given extra time and has an ESL or myself (a trained EFL instructor) beside him to clarify questions.

The strengths Kwame brings to the class are: a sense of cultural diversity, a musical talent that our classroom thrives on (he plays the Djembe). Kwame is also very active, and because of his wonderful suggestion! We now have daily morning walks, which we go on after the announcements and they usually last about half an hour. We walk through the little forest with the creek at the back of the school grounds. **To this specific lesson:** Kwame brings a sense of fun and excitement, as he loves dragons! Robert Munsch is also his favorite author because he "always has such funny, colourful pictures".

The opportunities Kwame brings to this lesson are: since Kwame came to Canada as a First Generation ELL he was put into a grade lower, with the possibility of moving up if he was at the appropriate level. We are blessed to have him in our class, as he is a wonderful team player who always encourages students to keep trying and not to give up. He is our little beacon of light! As he is a year older than most of the students, he situates himself as a leader in most activities, which is nice to rely on when coming up with group activities. Even though he joined the school year late, he is a natural addition to our family.

It is not challenging to plan modifications and accommodations for Kwame, as he is extremely adaptable and seems to grasp the concepts quickly. He knows he can ask questions if he is unsure, and if he cannot find the word in English I encourage him to write it in Zulu and write the translation in his personal dictionary. It is important for ELL students to maintain their native tongue. It is also extremely beneficial for myself and the class to learn words in other languages! It definitely helps that he is taking an English as a Second Language class in night school with his parents, and has been for about six months.