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Instituto de las Américas Bilingüe © Plantel Vallarta

Sheila Johnson  English Support Teacher

The students at the IAB School study their curriculum in both Spanish and English. I am privileged to work with many of the children in Primary grades 1-6.

I meet with small groups, once a week, for 15-30 minutes. The students practice conversation: learning to speak more fluently using correct pronunciation, and comprehension of the spoken word. They also work on their reading and writing skills. Using age appropriate songs, poems, stories, and games, the students are exposed to a wide variety of English vocabulary. Grammar is included in their writing and reading materials.

For the students who already have a good command of English, I challenge by exposing them to more advanced materials with a higher interest level. We work on academic language as well as social language and talk about the differences in the spoken and written language. I also add, for fun, a few expressions and we talk about how the language differs in different areas.

The younger English language learners for whom English is a new experience, I introduce vocabulary, sentence structure and spelling along with conversation. The uses of rhyming and word families help them with reading. They hear the language and they speak the language while learning and having fun in a non-threatening situation. The older, new-to-English students are also encouraged to bring questions or any language problems they may have in their regular classes for us to discuss.

The children who have been studying English at IAB in the past years have a good command of the language. With them, I reinforce their language skills, encourage them to increase their knowledge of the language, promote good grammar, and bolster their confidence in English.

Proficiency in a second language is not an easy task but by beginning to study English at an early age, the children are not afraid to make mistakes and they become more confident as they increase their verbal and written skills. Working in small, leveled groups, affords the students the opportunity to ask questions, to practice one-on-one, and to receive individual attention which encourages them to become self-confident English speakers.

Thanks dear parents for your attention to this note. Our intention is to keep you informed about the routines during the school year.

Regards from the Principal Office.