**INTRODUCTION**

- Learn how first and second grade ESL teachers utilize science as a vehicle to motivate and drive writing.
- Explore lessons and activities for planting seeds.

**APPROACH**

Using a hands-on approach to teach, observe, and write about the science topic of growing plants.

**STRATEGIES**

Strategies include using various organizing tools, such as:

- Graphs
- Venn Diagrams
- Calendars
- Journals
- Drawing
- Word Walls

Examples of a Planting Word Wall and Directions

**DESCRIPTION**

- **Pre-planting**: Build background knowledge about seeds and plants. Read books about planting and the life cycle of a plant. Review the process of planting and exam the different types of seeds. As a class take notes on the process of planting and review key vocabulary.

- **Planting**: Students actively participate in the process of planting seeds and write a paragraph to describe the steps taken to plant using transition and key vocabulary words.

- **Post-planting**: Students observe and record daily and weekly observations and drawings of plant growth. Students record growth each week using a line graph. Students use a Venn Diagram to compare and contrast two different types of plants using descriptive words in a paragraph. Students complete several different worksheets including labeling the parts of a flower, sequence of germination and life cycle of a seed.

**APPLICATION**

ESL students benefit from an authentic hands-on approach to build on language fluency in speaking and writing.

Using visual representations and organizers allows for differentiation for students with various language abilities.

Allowing for a pair and group common experience to prepare for various writing activities such as journal observations, narrative writing and sentence and paragraph development.

**Relevant resources**

- superteacherworksheets.com
- Readingatoz.com
- Oxford

**Observing Their Plants Grow**

Students actively planting seeds.