

Resource 21: Is there a pattern to the way young EAL pupils learn English?

Question	Have you observed this?	What interested you about this?
What sort of English accent do they have? Is their accent close to the accent of a first language English speaker?		
Do they use English when they play?		
Do they use English when 'working' in learning or play centres?		
Do they join in songs and rhymes in English?		
Do they join in the reading of repetitive illustrated children's literature?		
Do they listen quietly and with understanding to a story in English?		
Do they know the names of classroom objects such as markers, glue, scissors, sand box, etc?		

Cont...

Do they understand the standard phrases of classroom life? For example: it's time to get your coats, it's lunchtime, etc.		
Do they use English and their home language in one sentence?		
Do they talk to you and to their friends in their home language even when they know that you don't understand?		
Do they feel good about learning English?		
Do they sometimes not want to speak in English?		
Do they sometimes use English with their parents or brothers and sisters?		
Do they choose to work or play with things that remind them of their home community and language?		
What personality type learns English quickest?		