

## **ELL realities:**

- becoming proficient in the use of a second language takes time
- language learning is complex and can vary between two similar students
- English language proficiency & knowledge of Canadian culture are important for student success (see Ministry of Education – ESL Policies and Guidelines – 2009)
- parents play a vital role by working in partnership with educators

## **Two Types of Language Proficiency**

### 1. Conversational fluency

- conversational fluency is often acquired to a functional level within about **two years**
- used for social communication
- this is the language of the playground - the language of the neighborhood
- this is **NOT** the language of the formal classroom

### 2. Academic English - language required for success in the classroom.

- at least ***five years*** is usually required to catch up to native speakers in academic aspects of the second language
- many studies show ***five to seven years*** are needed.
  - it is a serious mistake to equate social language fluency with being ready and able to transition into English-only mainstream classrooms.
- academic language is more formal and more technical.
- written language is even more formal and more technical than oral language thereby taking even longer to master.

## **ELL Services**

—designed to further the intellectual and social development of English Language Learners by:

- strengthening their ability to communicate fluently
- helping with academic progress
- helping them experience a sense of self worth
- providing a safe & nurturing environment

## **from an English Language Learner's perspective:**

“Learning English is really hard work!!”

Reading stories, poetry and novels, and learning Math, Science and Social Studies in English takes a long time and I do try really hard to learn as fast as I can.

-about ELL (LST) Teachers:

- They speak more slowly and clearly.
- They give me examples and show pictures to help me understand.
- They show me how the English language works.
- They teach me new words everyday.
- They have examples of what a good project or essay looks like
- They give me time to think before I answer questions in class.
- They teach me strategies to help me take notes and study.
- They really listen and try to understand me.