Help!
They Don't Speak English
Starter Kit

for Primary Teachers

A resource guide for educators of
limited English proficient migrant students,
grades Pre-K - 6

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Eastern Stream Center on Resources and Training (ESCORT)
Region IV Comprehensive Center at AEL
Region XIV Comprehensive Center/Center for Applied Linguistics

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This project was a collaborative effort of the Region IV Comprehensive Center and the Region XIV Comprehensive Center. **Region IV** serves Kentucky, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia. **Region XIV** serves Florida, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Region IV Comprehensive Center
Sandy Angius, Director
1700 North Moore Street
Suite 1275
Arlington, VA 22209-1903
800.624.9120
http://www.ael.org/cac/
aelinfo@ael.org

Region XIV Comprehensive Center
Located at Educational Testing Service
Trudy Hensley, Director
1000 N. Ashley Drive
Suite 312
Tampa, FL 33602-3719
800.756.9003
www.ets.org/ccxiv

ESCORT
Bob Levy, Director
State University College
Bughee Hall
Oneonta, NY 13820
800.451.8058
www.escort.org

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The kit can be used by educators throughout the country for all limited English proficient (LEP) migrant children.

Additional copies can be obtained from:

ESCORT
Bugbee Hall - Room 304
Oneonta, New York 13820
1-800-451-8058
www.escort.org

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Introduction to the Help! Kit

The first *Help! They Don't Speak English Starter Kit* was produced in 1989 by a task force of Virginia migrant educators who were getting an increasing number of requests from classroom teachers for information about and assistance with their limited English proficient (LEP) students. The *Help! Kit* has proved to be an excellent resource for teachers who are seeking ideas for recommended teaching strategies, lesson plans, and materials. This newly revised manual retains the original focus of providing helpful information to busy mainstream teachers who are seeking practical advice on how they can more effectively include, instruct, and nurture LEP students. It is important to emphasize that most of the strategies promoted here are recommended strategies for **all** students, not just LEP students.

The *Help! Kit* is designed to

- Provide mainstream teachers with teaching strategies and materials that benefit all students—particularly LEP students.
- Provide cultural information to help teachers better understand and appreciate language-minority students and their families.
- Introduce strategies to assist teachers with improving the reading and writing abilities of LEP students.
- Introduce math exercises and strategies that combine learning basic math skills with language development activities.
- Offer suggestions for how to encourage language minority parents to play an active role in their children's education.
- Propose alternative methods to monitor the progress of and evaluate LEP students, who often cannot be fairly measured with the same criteria as mainstream students.
- Provide a wealth of resources and references teachers can use to pursue more fully areas of interest covered in the *Help! Kit.*

The *Help! Kit* is divided into nine chapters. Resources related to the topics covered in a chapter can be found at the end of the chapter. The last chapter contains selected articles of interest for teachers who wish to pursue relevant and timely topics in a more in-depth way. As you make your way through the *Help! Kit,* keep reminding yourself that

"**limited English proficient"**
does **not** mean
"limited Thinking proficient"!