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Teacher Guide

Sentence Stems for English Learners

In your classroom, making students feel safe, capable, and included from Day 1 is the top priority, especially for students who are navigating a new language and culture simultaneously. Anchor charts lower the affective filter with high-utility sentence stems paired with visual icons or emojis so students can communicate basic needs, request help, collaborate with peers, and share their thinking right away.

Daily Needs & Survival Stems

Placed near the door and teacher desk with simple picture cues (bathroom, water, nurse).

- "May I please go to the ___?" (restroom / clinic / water fountain)
- "I need ___." (a pencil / paper / a break / help)
- "How do you say ___ in English?"
- "Can you show me, please?"
- "I do not understand."

Peer Collaboration & Group Work

Placed above pod seating and group work stations to support academic talk during group tasks.

- "Can you help me with ___?"
- "It is your turn / It is my turn."
- "I agree with ___ because ___."
- "I disagree because ___."
- "Can you repeat that, please?"
- "Let's do this together."

Academic Discussion & Thinking Stems

Placed by the main whiteboard for Whole-Group, Math, and Reading discussions.

- "I noticed that ___."
- "I think the answer is ___ because ___."
- "My strategy was ___."
- "The text says ___."
- "I have a question about ___."

Sharing Ideas & Making Connections

These bridge student thinking with social interaction in the classroom. Keep these visible wherever discussions are had.

- “I notice ___.”
- “I wonder ___.”
- “I think ___ because ___.”
- “I agree with ___ because ___.”
- “I disagree because ___.”
- “In my country, ___.”
- “This is like ___.”

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