Robust Vocabulary Instruction for ELLs

The goal of this infographic is to share a process that allows ELLs to learn vocabulary in context.

Tiered Words

(Beck, McKeown, & Kucan, 2002)

Tier 1 Words
common language, concrete objects, rarely require direct instruction
ie: tree

Tier 2 Words
used across a range of disciplines, often abstract, require direct instruction
ie: vary

Tier 3 Words
specific to a domain or discipline, appear infrequently, require in-context direct instruction, usually abstract
ie: deforestation

2 Ways to Develop Vocabulary

Free Reading
Create a free reading program to expose students to a range of words. Practice using context clues to infer meaning (Cunningham & Stanovich, 1999).

T1 Words Strategy
Usually, no continuous direct instruction required.
Simply use the Els’ first language to access vocabulary by having students search via Google Translate and Google Images to quickly understand non-abstract vocabulary.

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