

# news

## For Immediate Release

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### TESOL Board Revises Position on Literacy for Young English Language Learners

Alexandria, Virginia (April 2010) – At its recent meeting, the Board of Directors of Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages, Inc. (TESOL), approved a revision to its *Position Paper on Language and Literacy Development for Young English Language Learners*. First approved by the TESOL Board of Directors in 2001, the statement was updated to include new information reflecting recent developments and research findings from the field.

In the statement, TESOL provides key principles and recommendations for language and literacy development for young English language learners (ages 3-8). Literacy learning and language acquisition are essential to young children's cognitive and social development. For all students, a strong and solid early education is critical to ensuring their long-term academic success. Improving reading programs in early childhood and primary classrooms is the key to making sure that all students read on grade level by the third grade. For young learners of English who are speakers of other languages (ESOL), the challenges of literacy and language development are different if they are learning in an all-English environment where they need the language to function in school, or if they are in an environment where English is taught as a foreign language (EFL) in school.

TESOL's full *Position Paper on Language and Literacy Development for Young English Language Learners (ages 3-8)* is available at [www.tesol.org](http://www.tesol.org).

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Incorporated in 1966, Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages, Inc. (TESOL), is a global association for English language teaching professionals headquartered in Alexandria, Virginia, USA. TESOL encompasses a network of over 50,000 educators worldwide, consisting of more than 12,000 individual members and an additional 45,000 educators within the 100 plus TESOL affiliate associations. Representing a multifaceted academic discipline and profession, TESOL offers members serial publications, books, and electronic resources on current issues, ideas, and opportunities in the field of English language teaching. TESOL also conducts a variety of workshops and symposia, including an annual convention, regarded as the foremost professional development opportunity for English language educators worldwide. TESOL's mission is to develop and maintain professional expertise in English language teaching for speakers of other languages worldwide.