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When new English Learners first arrive at your school, they may know absolutely no English. Although children tend to pick up new language quickly, we know that it can feel overwhelming to have a student who is unable to communicate even very basic needs.

 This basic Newcomer Guide is designed to help EL students with no English to communicate and maneuver their new campus during those first days of school. Certainly, the goal is for students to quickly move beyond the use of these tools and to communicate in English.

These tools can, however, play a valuable role in keeping students safe and on track during the first days of school. Mississippi educators are encouraged to take these tools and use what works for them, and to feel free to alter existing content or create new content that meets the unique needs of their students and school setting.

**IN THIS KIT YOU WILL FIND:**

* Communication cards for elementary and secondary students. These cards communicate basic needs, such as the need to go to the restroom, to use the phone to call home, or to request classroom materials.
* A template of a visual schedule, which teachers can change to show the student’s specific schedule.
* An information sheet for parents that explains how and when to call the school. This can be especially valuable for EL parents, who may not understand when American schools need to hear from families.
* A procedure chart where basic classroom procedures can be recorded and reviewed.
* A newcomer guide with suggestions for how to introduce a new EL student to the school, and what staff members and tools might be used to help ease the student’s transition.