CASE STUDY

More Speaking Practice in English Builds Linguistic Confidence in a California District

Laguna Beach Unified School District
Laguna Beach, California

Start Reading →

Lexia ENGLISH LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT

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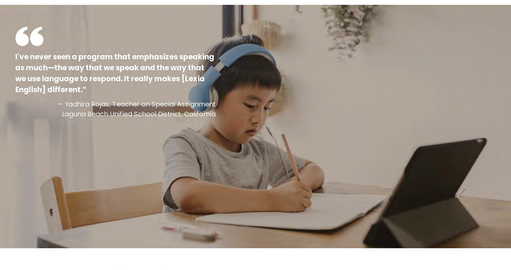
A Special Assignment

As a teacher on special assignment in the Laguna Beach Unified School District, Yadhira Rojas was tasked with evaluating the English language learning program in the district's elementary schools, middle school, and high school. The district needed to find a better way to support its Emergent Bilingual students, who represent approximately 3% of the district's students. District leaders also wanted a program that would reinforce teacher-led instruction during English language learning time.

"Our students don't do enough speaking," Rojas explained, "particularly at home where English is not the primary language." The district had been using technology solutions for students, but there was nothing in place specifically focused on language development. Rojas reviewed **Lexia English Language Development™** and liked its focus on academic language and speaking practice. "I've never before seen a program that emphasizes speaking so much—the way that we speak and the way that we use language to respond. It really makes [Lexia English] different," said Rojas. She felt that the program would help both newcomers and long-term English language learners with their speaking and listening skills. Based on her recommendation, the district agreed to pilot K–6 Lexia English.

Due to the pandemic, Laguna Beach Unified School District relied on a hybrid learning model during the 2020–21 school year. As an Adaptive Blended Learning program, Lexia English was able to seamlessly integrate into the curriculum, supporting students' English language acquisition both at home and in the classroom.



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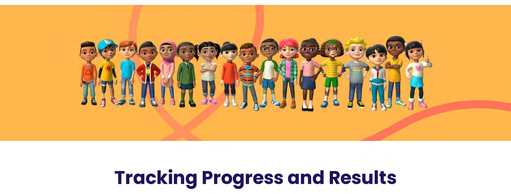
— Yadhira Rojas, Teacher on Special Assignment, Laguna Beach Unified School District, California

Speaking Practice, Anywhere

Lexia English went above and beyond Rojas' requirements for speaking practice. Whether students were working at home or at school, the program provided opportunities for speaking and listening practice that emphasized academic language in different content areas. The patented, embedded speech recognition engine gave students immediate, guided, corrective feedback in a safe nonjudgmental environment, helping each learner progress linguistically and academically at their own pace.

Offering more speaking practice than other programs, Lexia English helped Emergent Bilinguals at Laguna Beach to develop agency and a growth mindset as they advanced their language skills—empowering them to speak with confidence.

As the year of hybrid learning went on, Rojas appreciated more and more about the new English language program. She saw the academic language emphasis as especially important for her older students, who consider themselves fluent in conversational English. Rojas also found that offering students choices among the different characters and lessons provided intrinsic motivation for learning. Students were able to identify with the 17 different characters in the program, all of whom speak with authentic accents. This is crucial in the modern classroom's efforts to be culturally sustaining, as students feel positively represented.



Tracking Progress and Results

For Laguna Beach, Lexia English supported teachers nearly as much as it supported students. The program's patented Assessment Without Testing® technology gathered and analyzed actionable, real-time progress-monitoring data, offering reports that "allow us to show parents that their kids are making progress," said Rojas.

The data reflects students' real-time progress, providing teachers with targeted offline lessons and usage reports. This helps teachers target instruction appropriately and better engage each student. Rojas also valued the high-level reporting for school and district leaders. "I can see the results for an entire year with just one click," she explained.

By the end of the school year, Rojas was excited to see her students' increased linguistic confidence, as evidenced by the likelihood that students would speak in class. This would serve them well on the state proficiency test. Lexia English is aligned with multiple state language proficiency standards to support language acquisition for students at all proficiency levels. Of particular importance to Laguna Beach is the alignment to the California English Development Standards. According to Rojas, that really set the program apart.

Laguna Beach's success with Lexia English has encouraged Rojas to recommend the program, particularly because of the speaking and listening components. "One of our Emergent Bilingual students didn't speak for two years in preschool. Now, in transitional kindergarten, after logging 1,000 minutes in [Lexia English], she's speaking, sharing, and asking questions in class."

Why Lexia English?

ASSESSMENT WITHOUT TESTING

- Ongoing progress-monitoring data
- Reporting at the student, class, grade, school, and district levels

ALIGNED WITH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY STANDARDS

- WIDA, CA ELD, TX ELPS, ELPA 21, and NY ESL
- Rigorous academic content
- Supports language acquisition for students at all proficiency bands

ADAPTIVE BLENDED LEARNING MODEL

- Individualized learning paths
- Independent, student-driven learning
- Resources for in-classroom applications
- Teacher-led, small-group instruction and practice

CULTURAL RESPONSIVENESS

- Views learners' heritage language as an asset
- Celebrates student achievements
- 17 Emergent Bilingual characters support and engage learners

AUTO-PLACEMENT

- Determines correct entry point into the program
- Assesses both receptive and productive language skills
- Places students based on knowledge and use of English

SPEECH RECOGNITION TECHNOLOGY

- Immediate, guided, corrective feedback
- Safe, nonjudgmental environment
- Helps students build linguistic confidence in academic English

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