



Being Ambitious Professional Learning

by Kaz Michalak Head of Primary EAL

FOBISIA EAL JAWS Garden International School, Kuala Lumpur



The EAL JAWS conference was a great opportunity for EAL teachers to get together and share ideas about best practice. The delegates were very impressed when we (Robert Taylor and myself) presented our model of EAL support and showed how good EAL practice is being embedded in both intensive plus EAL and mainstream teaching. We are fortunate that Regent's has made significant investment in the EAL provision for students and that we meet every student personally and assess them on arrival to make sure they benefit from the right level of focused support. Very few other schools can claim to offer this service.

One of the most useful things was the discussion around models of co-teaching. We were already exploring this before the conference. One of the delegates gave a very detailed account of how co-teaching can be used to great effect and demonstrated the different models. This presentation really inspired us to look at co-teaching in more detail.

We are creating more opportunities to use the co-teaching models. We will move away from the traditional model where a support teacher takes a group of students to the back of the class during a lesson while the main teacher teaches, and focus on 2 teachers working together for the benefit of all the students in the class. This is particularly pertinent in our school as the majority of the class will benefit from co-planned and co-taught lessons that have a greater amount of EAL language input. We are also now working on a long term project to make open ended challenge based Maths activities accessible to EAL students in the class.

***Do you have any professional development news you want to share?
If so contact Mark Loader at mark.loader@regents-pattaya.co.th***