



Catholic Charities Community Services
ESOL-International Center

Teaching Philosophy

The International Center is a community of English language learners from around the world and native-English-speaking volunteers who work together, both individually and in group settings, with the goal of improving learners' communication skills. Our programming and facility are designed to create an atmosphere conducive to learning. Our mission is to provide the language skills and confidence necessary for our learners to communicate effectively in their personal, professional, and academic lives in New York City.

Our approach to language learning is based on the following principles:

- The goal in each class is to have the students speak as much as possible
- Engaging in small-group activities is the best way to get students speaking to each other
- Small group and pair work allow for more student speaking
- Having students bring their own experiences into the conversation encourages them to speak more
- Any content used in class must be relevant and meaningful to our students' lives