**Reflective Blog Entry 1**

**Concerns, thoughts, and perceptions about curriculum and ELLs/ESL**

After being in class for six weeks or so, I have gained a lot of information about the curriculum surrounding ELLs/ESL. Before taking this class I was very intimidated at the thought of having a student in my classroom that had not yet learned to speak English. Although I am still intimidated by it, I feel like I have a better understanding on how to properly implement the curriculum.

Learning how to teach ELL or ESL students is very important to me, because I want all of my students to be given the same opportunities to be successful. After studying a little bit about Krashen’s 2nd Language Acquisition Theory I have learned how ELL students come to learn the language. It does not happen very quickly, and they absorb a lot of information before communicating. I also found it very important that an ELL student needs to be comfortable when learning and to know that it is okay to make mistakes and that the learning environment stress level should be at a 0. I highly agree with Krashen’s statement about the stress level, because if we put too much pressure on the student they will shut down completely and not become successful.

One of my biggest concerns with teaching ELL students is that they are already at a disadvantage, and if I don’t do my job well I am the cause for them being at an even further disadvantage. Knowing how to use realia, graphic organizers, and respecting the different cultures I feel a little less intimidated to go into a classroom with an ELL student.