

Liam Edwards

Mentors: Dr. Slonaker & Dr. Brown

“What to Do with English as a Second Language”

As part of my Education-Collaboration course through Castleton University, I explored how English as a Second Language (ESL) students could develop certain academic strengths from working in groups. The United States does not claim English as an official language, but the majority of public schools in the nation are English-based. ESL students can be at a disadvantage in schools with pull-out programs for students who are learning English. Students who are in ESL classrooms, get pulled from their general education classes and often miss the benefit of group work. Therefore, some of the ESL students are not gaining knowledge of their new communities. I conducted research to discover how students showed new knowledge in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). The research suggests that children gain knowledge of the material, social-emotional skills, and develop English language concepts from group work in science-inquiry based activities (Hughes, Mona, Stout, Bierly, & McAninch, 2015). These findings can be beneficial to teachers of English language learners.