

The Elementary English Bulletin

תשפ"ז

2026–2027

Chief Inspector for English at Elementary Schools

Dr. Nicole Broder

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Introduction

Welcome to the 2026–2027 Bulletin of the Elementary English Inspectorate. This bulletin brings together key information, updates, and resources to support your work in the coming school year. Each section is designed to be easy to navigate, so simply click on the link icon to explore further. We hope you find it both useful and inspiring as you plan.

Our main goal for the year ahead is to ensure that every elementary school pupil in Israel - regardless of background, sector, or mother tongue - develops genuine communicative competence in English. Anchored in the CEFR framework and the National English Curriculum 2020, we are committed to teaching that is rich and consistent, builds strong oral language and reading fluency, and nurtures a real love of books in every child. In May '27, we will celebrate our students' joy of reading, developed throughout the year, with our first National Elementary Literacy Week.

We pursue these aims with clarity of purpose, mindful of all our pupils have weathered in recent years and confident in their resilience, determined to forge ahead with the shared goals that have always guided our work. Every program and tool you will find here exists to advance these goals: teachers who feel supported, valued, and empowered to do their best work, and students who are confident communicators and readers.

Wishing you all a peaceful, productive and healthy school year,

Dr. Nicole Broder

Chief Inspector for English at Elementary Schools
nicolebro@mehad.gov.il

The English Curriculum, The Portal, Community & Contacts

The National English Curriculum 2020 [🔗](#)

The National English Curriculum 2020 is the foundational document that shapes your EFL teaching. Anchored in the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR), it defines the proficiency levels, learning outcomes, and pedagogical principles that guide your English instruction from the very beginning through to the end of high school.

As an elementary teacher, this curriculum explicitly sets out the expected progression in listening, speaking, reading, and writing across your grade levels. It is designed to provide you with a coherent, principled framework for your daily lesson planning, materials selection, and classroom assessment.

Because it is the ultimate reference point for all official programs, textbook approvals, and professional learning priorities, you are encouraged to become deeply familiar with it. Return to it regularly as your authoritative guide to exactly what you are teaching, why you are teaching it, and the goals your students are aiming to achieve.

The Elementary English Portal [🔗](#)

This Elementary English Inspectorate website is the central source for official documents and the latest updates. To make navigation easier, the site has been improved over the past year. We encourage you to explore the site and visit it regularly to stay informed.

Facebook [🔗](#)

Our Facebook group – The English Teaching Community in Israel - has over 19,000 members from all over the world sharing ideas, asking questions, and getting answers. If you have a Facebook account, now is the time to join us.

Elementary WhatsApp Broadcast [🔗](#)

Join the National Elementary English Teachers' WhatsApp group to receive updates in real time.

Inspectors and National Counselors

Contact information for English inspectors in the districts: [🔗](#)

List of national counselors, including their areas of responsibility and contact information: [🔗](#)

Approved Textbooks

You must use only approved textbooks in all your classes. The list of approved books for elementary schools, which also includes supplementary material, is available here:



Assessment

The ABLE Kit

If you are teaching the 5th grade this year, we strongly encourage you to administer the ABLE Kit to every pupil within the first two months of the school year - and ideally during the very first weeks. Early screening is essential. The ABLE Kit maps each pupil's foundational literacy skills, including phonological awareness and decoding. The results will give you a detailed and actionable picture of where every learner stands at this critical juncture. Where gaps exist, timely intervention can close them before they widen. Where foundations are strong, you can build on them with confidence. Do not wait until mid-year to find out what the beginning of the year could have told you. Follow this link  to the Building Blocks site for full guidance on administering and using the ABLE Kit.

Internal Assessment Tools

As we prepare for the upcoming school year, 5th and 6th grade teachers are highly encouraged to utilize the internal formative assessment tools available on the Ramah website. These resources are excellent for conducting initial student assessments at the start of the year. These tools can help you enhance your teaching, get to know your students' abilities, and plan teaching and intervention accordingly. The platform includes ready-to-use listening and reading comprehension as well as writing tasks, samples of student work, and suggested grading rubrics for your use.

Tnufa

The external Tnufa exam for 6th grade will take place on Wednesday, May 5th, 2027.

Digital Resources & Innovation

Geffen [🔗](#)

Geffen empowers school principals and educational staff to tailor programs and resources to their specific community needs, fostering a more responsive and innovative learning environment. To make sure English is included in your school's chosen resources, talk to your principal. A full list of Geffen elementary programs can be found here: [🔗](#)

Ask your principal to order sets of English readers via Geffen [🔗](#) so that your learners can enjoy authentic, aesthetic, and enjoyable reading for pleasure activities.

Dig Into Digital [🔗](#)

The Elementary English Inspectorate offers digital courses on the Moodle platform for 5th and 6th graders. These courses provide teachers and students with ready-made content and tasks that facilitate independent learning with both automated instant feedback as well as teacher feedback.

- All About Me
- Come Travel with Me

AI Teaching Practices on the Portal [🔗](#)

The portal now features AI-enhanced teaching practices designed to transform classroom learning. AI helps you create personalized lessons quickly. Use AI to make different activities for each student's level, generate reading texts and activities, and check students' writing. Save hours of preparation time and focus more on teaching.

Summer School Teaching Units [🔗](#)

If you are teaching English at Summer School this year, there is a full set of ready-made teaching units waiting for you on the elementary portal:

- [English grades 1-3](#)
- [English grades 4-6](#)

Professional Learning

National In-Service Courses / Hishtalmuyot

Keep an eye on the Elementary Portal and our official WhatsApp broadcast group for updates on courses and other professional learning opportunities from the National English Inspectorate.

Kaveret

Kaveret is an innovative online learning environment where you can enjoy rich and targeted professional learning on several themes during the same year. You will find thematic units consisting of knowledge, skills, values, diverse and innovative teaching practices and tools for distance and blended learning. You can choose units of 3 or 6 hours and collate them into customized batches that suit your own fields of interest and professional needs. Complete 30-hour courses are also available.

PLCs

Professional Learning Communities started 10 years ago all over the country. PLCs differ from traditional in-service courses as they offer you the opportunity to learn from one another, share ideas, and analyze dilemmas that emerge from the classroom. You will collaborate, create, and cooperate with colleagues in a supportive environment where matters related to English instruction and pedagogy are discussed. To join a PLC in your area, contact your regional inspector to find out which PLC is suitable for you.

Teacher Chat

Teacher Chat is a program designed specifically for English teachers whose mother tongue is not English, who want to elevate their spoken English skills and build classroom confidence. You register for a series of weekly Zoom chats, each lasting 30-40 minutes and led by a trained volunteer. Further information and registration details will follow.

ETAI

ETAI is a voluntary, grassroots organization dedicated to the professional learning of English teachers across all sectors in Israel. Through local events, conferences, and its journal The ETAI Forum, it offers support, resources, and a community of practice. Affiliated with IATEFL and TESOL and working closely with the Ministry of Education Inspectorate, ETAI connects Israeli teachers to the global profession and keeps them current with the latest research, methodology, and technology.

School Programs

Enjoy English

Enjoy English is a pre-foundation oral/aural program for pre-school through 2nd grade, now in its fifth year. If you are a participant in the program, you will receive counselling support and professional learning opportunities to strengthen early English exposure. The program aims to build young learners' spoken and listening proficiency before formal literacy begins.

Learn In Tune

Imagine students learning English while singing, moving, laughing, and performing together. This program combines music, rhythm, and movement to help your students develop oral fluency, expand their vocabulary, and improve their English pronunciation in a natural and enjoyable way. Through songs, actions, and interactive activities, learners build confidence and experience English as a living language.

Building Blocks - The National Elementary Literacy Program

The Building Blocks program is designed to inform and enhance the teaching of reading across its full arc - from early reading acquisition, phonics and decoding, from the letter to the word to the sentence and the text. It gives you the knowledge and tools to help your students progress to the next stage and become accurate, confident readers who understand what they read.

Register for a 30-hour national or regional Building Blocks hishtalmut, where you'll learn how to facilitate early reading acquisition, use the ABLE screening and diagnostic tools, and design and implement intervention plans that lead your students to reading success.

The Joy of Reading

The Joy of Reading is a national program designed to cultivate a love of reading in English among students in grades 4-6. At its heart is the belief that reading for pleasure is not a luxury but a foundation for language growth, imaginative thinking, and a lifelong relationship with books.

The program brings together three complementary reading experiences, each of which enriches students' language, builds their vocabulary, and deepens their relationship with English. Sustained silent reading gives students protected time to lose themselves in books of their own choosing, drawing on their school's English library and a range of e-books - encountering new words, ideas, and worlds at their own pace. Shared reading creates a whole-class community around a single text, with teacher-led and pupil-led reading aloud that models expression, invites discussion, and broadens the language all students have access to. Readers' Theatre adds a performative dimension, inviting students to step inside a text, give voice to its characters, and discover that reading can be as alive and collaborative as any stage production. Together, these experiences offer students something that reaches beyond the classroom: the pleasure of reading, the language it builds, and a gift that will serve them now and throughout their lives.

To hear more about it, join the elementary Back-to-School webinar in September - or watch the recording later if you can't attend live - and register for a Joy of Reading 30-hour hishtalmut, where you'll learn to plan and implement reading experiences with confidence and creativity. As your students read, they'll build their reading accuracy, fluency, and spelling and strengthen their recognition of common sight words and phrases. Through the stories themselves, they'll encounter different cultures and countries, broadening their general knowledge and growing more curious, open, and accepting of others.

A few simple routines can lead to a successful program. For example, fix a weekly slot for sustained silent reading, encourage the use of reading logs, and make time for students in higher grades to read aloud to younger pupils. Readers' Theatre lends itself beautifully to a slot in the Joy of Reading literacy week, while student-written book reviews featured in a purpose-made blog, give pupils real ownership.

National Elementary Literacy Week

In May 2027, elementary schools across Israel will take part in The Joy of Reading Week, the first annual National English Literacy Week, a landmark celebration of children's reading of books that ignite their imaginations.

From classroom read-alouds and book character parades to Readers' Theatre performances that bring stories to life on stage, this is just a taste of what is coming. Elementary schools across the country will be finding their own creative ways to make English reading an event, an experience, and a memory. For more information and guidance, contact your regional English inspector.

The Writing Handbook for Teachers

We are pleased to share with you a new resource from the English Inspectorate: Teaching Writing: A Guidebook. Writing is often the most neglected of the communicative language activities in the English classroom, yet it is essential for your students' overall proficiency and their ability to function in English beyond the school walls. This guidebook offers practical, classroom-ready support for teaching writing at every level, from Pre-A1 through B2, grounded in the writing can-dos of Curriculum 2020. It includes engaging classroom activities, sets of teaching tips, and guidance on feedback, assessment, spelling, punctuation, portfolios, and even poetry - all designed to complement your coursebook. We hope you will find it a useful companion throughout the year, and feel free to adapt its ideas to suit your learners and your own teaching style.

National Writing Project: Stronger Together

Each year, we encourage students to write creatively on a variety of topics that are close to their daily realities. Over the past year, students have been discovering more about their ROOTS and writing about them in engaging, meaningful and creative ways . Building directly on that foundation, next year's theme for the national writing project, Stronger Together, represents a natural continuation of this journey. By shifting the lens from individual heritage to collective strength, the new theme perfectly aligns with the Ministry's overarching focus on Social Cohesion. Through Stronger Together,

pupils will be given the language and the space to reflect on community, resilience, and shared purpose, moving from understanding their own roots to branching out into a unified society.

Register for a 30-hour writing instruction hishtalmut, where you'll learn how to guide pupils through the full writing process and how to track their growth throughout the year by setting up individual writing portfolios, so that their progress becomes visible, celebrated, and built upon.