What is Sheltered Instruction?

Sheltered Instruction is an instructional approach that fosters English Language Learners (ELLs) acquisition of grade-level content-area knowledge and academic skills while simultaneously building their English proficiency. Teachers articulate meaningful input to students through the use of clear, simple, direct English. They utilize a variety of scaffolding strategies to differentiate lessons and help students attain independence in their learning. Students engage in meaningful, collaborative learning activities that apply students’ prior knowledge while building connections across the curriculum. Lesson delivery is adapted to meet students’ various English proficiency levels as ELLs cooperatively learn with their English-speaking peers, making it beneficial to all learners by complimenting their diverse learning styles.

What are the components of Sheltered Instruction?

1. Preparation (Content and Language Objectives)
2. Building Background
3. Comprehensible Input
4. Strategies
5. Interaction
6. Practice/Application
7. Lesson Delivery
8. Review and Assessment

What are some instructional activities that promote Sheltered Instruction?

- Repeated Readings through Reciprocal Teaching
- Jigsaws
- Graphic Organizers/KWL Charts
- Word Sorts
- Multimedia Resources
- Think-Alouds
- Think-Pair-Share/Think-Write-Pair-Share
- Picture Walks
- Reader’s Theater/Dramatic Play
- Manipulatives
- Inquiry-based Projects
- Journal Activities
- Exit Ticket (Parking Lot for Questions)

"Curriculum and teaching methods should provide both windows into other’s experiences, and mirrors of each student’s own reality and validity" (Emily Style, 1990).