

ENVIRONMENTS, ROUTINES, AND INTERACTIONS

Physical Environment:

In Andrew's learning environment, he has materials labeled in both English and the children's home languages throughout the setting. The reading area includes bilingual books and books made by the children and their families, which include stories and rhymes in their home languages. Andrew has interest areas throughout the room that encourage the children to naturally form small groups.

- *How does the way in which Andrew structures the physical environment offer support to dual language learners?*
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- *What are some other ways in which Andrew can enhance the physical environment to support dual language learners?*
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- *What might you observe in children as a result of this environment?*
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Routines:

Andrew provides consistent daily routines so the children know what to expect throughout the day. He warmly greets children in their home languages and invites family members to join in during group time to share stories and rhymes in their home languages. At the end of each week, he sends notes home to families to explain what their child was most engaged in during the week and what he plans to focus on in the coming week. He asks families for key words or phrases in their home languages that relate to the coming week's theme.

- *How do you think the way in which Andrew structures his routines supports dual language learners?*
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Interactions:

Now let's think about how the structures in the physical environment and routines might influence Andrew's interactions with dual language learners and their families in the learning environment.

- *How do the structures in the environment and routines help Andrew interact effectively with dual language learners and their families and support their overall language development?*
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Small adjustments to the environment and routines set the stage for supportive interactions with young dual language learners. The ways in which we structure our learning environments and routines impact the behaviors we see in the children and families we work with.