



Systems That Support Dual Language Learners

Partnering with Families to Enhance Systems That Support Dual Language Learners

LEARN FROM FAMILIES

Families know their children better than anyone else and have valuable information to share with you.

- Talk with families to gain an accurate understanding of their priorities for their children's language development. Learn about their hopes and aspirations for their children's development.
- Learn from families what language(s) they speak at home and what language(s) their children speak with different family members.
- Ask families about their routines at home (for example, mealtime, bedtime) and learn key words or phrases in each child's home language that you can use during routines in your setting.

SHARE WITH FAMILIES

Sharing information with families helps them become actively involved in their children's development and learning.

- Share with families how their children are adjusting to your program.
- Document children's developing abilities to communicate in English and in their home languages and share this documentation with families.
- Use Behavior Over Time Graphs (BOTGs) to share stories of children's progress and development with their families.

COLLABORATE WITH FAMILIES

Remember, families are your partners in supporting children's development and learning.

- Discuss with each family a plan to support their child's language development in English and the child's home language.
- Partner with each family to offer opportunities that support their child's language development in English and the child's home language. For example:
 - Encourage each family to co-create a book with their child, including rhymes, songs, and stories in the child's home language.
 - Invite each family to engage in conversations with their child as a part of daily routines. For example, a family can have a scavenger hunt at the grocery store where the child and the family identify and discuss different fruits and vegetables.
- Collaborate with families in planning events that build community and encourage family involvement in the program. For example, a family fun day with activities for families and their children, a community gardening day, or a family feast event where families share favorite recipes with the group.

For an article with information on supporting dual language learners and their families, go to the following website:

http://www.naeyc.org/yc/files/yc/file/201303/Many_Languages_Margruder_0313_0.pdf



Systems That Support Dual Language Learners

Taking It Home—Supporting Your Child’s Language Development

As a family member, you play an important role in supporting language development, whether in English or your home language. Children’s learning and development are strengthened when they receive support in both their home language and English.

SUPPORT YOUR CHILD’S HOME LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT.

- Talk, read, and sing with your child in your home language. Continuing development of your child’s use of your home language will provide a strong foundation for your child to learn English and do well in school.
- Connect with your child in fun ways through the use of songs, games, and drawings.
- Read to your child every day in the language you are most comfortable using. The more exposure your child has to language, the larger your child’s vocabulary will be.
- Engage in conversations at the grocery store, at the library, at the park, and in the car, making connections to real-life objects in your child’s world.

PARTNER WITH YOUR CHILD’S TEACHER/PROVIDER TO SUPPORT YOUR CHILD’S DUAL LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT.

- Discuss with the teacher/provider your goals for your child’s language development.
- Share information about daily routines in the home and what language(s) are used during these routines.
- Provide your child’s teacher/provider with some music, songs, books, artifacts, and pictures that represent your culture, to be included in your child’s learning environment.
- Share key phrases, words, songs, rhymes, etc., in your home language with your child’s teacher/provider.
- Offer suggestions to your child’s teacher/provider about how you can be actively involved in your child’s early childhood program. For example, you can read a story or sing a song in your home language to the children in the program.
- Co-create a book with your child in your home language that includes songs, rhymes, and/or stories. Offer to read the book to the children in your child’s program.

For more information, go to the following website to read about ways to enhance your child’s language development: <http://www.first5california.com/parents/learning-center.aspx?id=10&sub=41>