Dual Language Supports
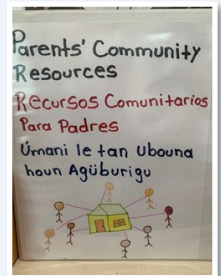
Understand how you can enhance your learning environment by supporting the social, emotional, and cognitive skills of Dual Language Learners.

1 CLASSROOM ENVIRONMENT

Classroom materials, resources and environmental print reflect a familiar environment for Dual Language Learners. Setting the learning environment up with displays that show familiar pictures and materials that reflect children's culture and traditions provide an important link between home and school.

Pro Tip: Label classroom supplies, interest areas, and furniture in English and the home languages of children. Include images of families and cultural practices.

photos here, have been provided by one of our local Providers, Paulina Valerio-Guerrero in Auburn.

2 KEY WORDS AND PHRASES

Hello, how are you?
سلام، چطوری؟
Salām, chetori?

水
Mizu

Learning key phrases in children's home languages will give DLLs a sense of security in the classroom. Familiarize yourself with phrases often used in the classroom, such as *'good morning'*, *'can I use/have'*, *'I need help '*, etc. When children speak these phrases try saying them back, and then say them in English to facilitate learning.

Pro Tip: Ask families to share a list of words that the child uses frequently, and how to say them. Encourage children to speak their home languages with peers, or in one-on-one settings.

3 CODE SWITCHING

Even before babies are born their brains can distinguish between two languages, and when they begin to speak it is typical for them to 'code switch', or alter between two languages while speaking. This helps them develop their language and communication skills. There is no reason to "correct" children when they code switch - instead, use it to understand their communication abilities.

Pro Tip: When children code switch observe, listen and respond. Build on their ideas by continuing to talk with them.

4 RESOURCES

The WA Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, home of the WA Kids Assessment tools, has various resources for connecting and working with families. One of their many resources include an *"Introducing Me"* Family Connection Booklet available in 18 languages. This booklet gives families the opportunity to answer a variety of questions that give insight into the child's developmental capabilities, personal preferences and home life. This is a valuable tool for communicating with families when a new DLL joins your program and can be used to inform your approach in supporting DLLs.

Pro Tip: WA Kids also offers assessments in many languages so that you can monitor and support DLL's language and developmental growth.

Find the *"Introducing Me"* **Family Connection Booklets here;**
https://www.k12.wa.us/student-success/testing/state-testing-overview/washington-kindergarten-inventory-developing-skills-wakids/wakids-family-connection/%E2%80%9Cintroducing-me%E2%80%9D-family-connection-booklet

Dual Language Supports Resources

Below are a list of resources you can use to better support dual language children that you care for.

These sources were used for the tidbit:

- Teachstone: 3 Ways to Support Dual Language Learners
  http://info.teachstone.com/blog/support-dual-language-learners

- Harvard Graduate School of Education: Multilingual Preschoolers
  https://www.gse.harvard.edu/news/uk/18/04/multilingual-preschoolers

- Zero to Three: Taking Two Languages to Preschool
  https://www.zerotothree.org/resources/2214-taking-two-languages-to-preschool-supporting-children-who-are-dual-language-learners

- Head Start, ECLKC: Code Switching, Why it Matters and How to Respond
  https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/culture-language/article/code-switching-why-it-matters-how-respond

Additional resources:

- **Multilingualism Handout**

- **Head Start ECLKC Creating Environments that Include Children's Home Languages**

- **Head Start ECLKC Code Switching - Why It Matters and How to Respond**

- **WA Kids Introducing Me (Spanish)**

- **The Benefits of Being Bilingual**

- **Virtual Lab School-Supporting Language Diversity: Direct Care**

- **CDC Tools for Tracking Milestones**

- **¡HABLEN, LEAN Y CANTEN JUNTOS EN SU LENGUA MATERNA TODOS LOS DÍAS!**

- **From the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)**

  ⇒ **What Parents Have to Teach Us About Their Dual Language Children**
  ⇒ **Learning to Listen: Supporting Dual Language Learners' Language Acquisition and Learning Identities (Voices)**
  ⇒ **New Research on Dual Language Learners: Support Children in Learning Both Languages**

Giving every child a great start