



March 16, 2023

Brilliant Bilingual Preschoolers

Viewer's Guide

This participant's guide helps you capture your ideas as you engage in the webinar content. During this webinar, we focus on children who are dual language learners. Do you ever wonder how young children can learn not only one but two or more languages? What is going on in their brain? Does their language development differ from a child learning only one language? How can we best support them? The resources, reflection questions, and activities help you think about ways to support children who are dual language learners from birth to three. Helpful resources can be found in the Resources section at the end of this guide.

Definitions

Dual Language Learner

- Refers to a child who is acquiring two or more languages at the same time, or a child who is learning a second language while continuing to develop their first
- Definition: <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/policy/45-cfr-chap-xiii/1305-2-terms>

Equity

- Fair and just treatment to all children, families, and those who support them. Equity enables everyone to achieve their full potential
- Working definition: <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/internal-use/article/equity-working-definition>



National Center on

Early Childhood Development, Teaching, and Learning

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Key Idea: Brain Development and Language Learning

Early Childhood Is a Uniquely Special Time for Language Learning



Early Brain Development

- A child's brain grows faster in the first few months and years of life than it will at any other time.
- Language learning is a big part of this!
- All children learn language best from social, back-and-forth interactions with others.
- **Our brains are incredibly well adapted to learn multiple languages:** this is particularly true in early childhood.

Resource Spotlight: MEG Video



Watch the full video of Dr. Naja Ferjan Ramírez describing her research here:

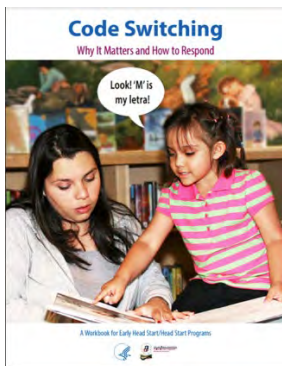
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N7Gn_ImK4_Y

Code Mixing

What did you notice in the video? Jot down any notes as you watch.



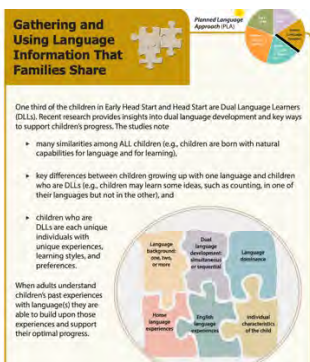
Resource Spotlight: Code Mixing



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>

Resource Spotlight: Gathering Language Information from Families



Gathering and Using Language Information That Families Share
(also available in Spanish)

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/publication/gathering-using-language-information-families-share>

After reviewing the guide, write down at least one new question you plan to ask a family to better understand their child’s dual language learning experience and build belonging.

Resource Spotlight: Professional Learning Guides



Professional Learning Guides to Support Children Who Are Dual Language Learners (also available in Spanish)

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/culture-language/article/professional-learning-guides-support-children-who-are-dual-language-learners>

Reflection: Can I see the children in the environment or curriculum even when they are not here?

Take a moment to think about your own environment: Can you identify one thing you can do tomorrow to make your learning environment or daily practices more meaningful to the children you serve?



Resource Spotlight: Ready DLL Mobile App



Ready DLL is a mobile application (app) for Head Start and Early Head Start teachers and caregivers who support children who are dual language learners (DLLs). Access resources, learn key words and phrases, and discover implementation strategies from your smartphone.

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/culture-language/article/ready-dll-mobile-app>

Small Group Time

What did you notice in the video? Jot down any notes as you watch. What did this teacher do well? Are there any areas for improvement?



Resource Spotlight: Making It Work



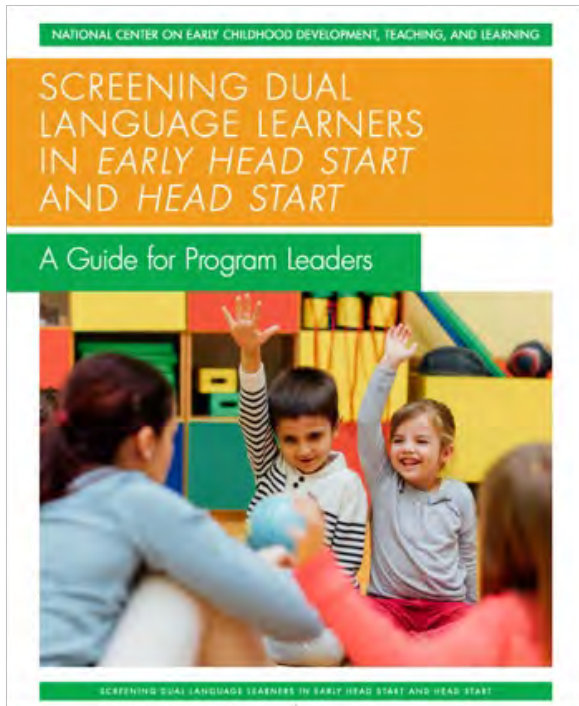
Making It Work (MIW): Implementing Cultural Learning Experiences in American Indian and Alaska Native Early Learning Settings for Children Ages Birth to 5

MIW is a three-step process that helps AIAN programs connect and integrate cultural practice into their current curriculum by planning and implementing cultural learning experiences for young children.

Explore MIW, including a training guide for implementation:

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/culture-language/article/making-it-work-implementing-cultural-learning-experiences-american-indian-alaska-native-early>

Resource Spotlight: Screening Dual Language Learners



Programs are required to complete or obtain developmental screenings for all children. It is important to be thoughtful and intentional in how we screen children who are DLLs. Use these resources to Learn more.

Special Considerations: Developmental Screening of Children Ages Birth to 5 Who are Dual Language Learners (also available in Spanish):

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/child-screening-assessment/article/special-considerations-developmental-screening-children-ages-birth-5-who-are-dual-language-learners>

Screening Dual Language Learners in Early Head Start and Head Start: A Guide for Program Leaders:

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/child-screening-assessment/article/screening-dual-language-learners-early-head-start-head-start-guide-program-leaders>

Resource Spotlight: Ongoing Child Assessment



Programs are required to assess children’s language development in both the home language and English and to use alternative culturally and linguistically responsive assessment practices when necessary. Use these resources to learn more.

Appendix C Ongoing Assessment for Children Who Are Dual Language Learners:

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/no-search/oca-guide-9-appendices.pdf>

Tip Sheet: Ongoing Assessment for Children Ages Birth to 5 (also available in Spanish):

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/child-screening-assessment/article/ongoing-assessment-children-ages-birth-5>

What's Your Why?

As we think about how to improve our support for children and families who are dual language learners, it is important to ground ourselves in our “why.” As you listen to Dr. Xigrad Soto-Boykin talk about why this work is important to her, think about why this work is important to you. Share your reflections below.



Helpful Additional Resources (*Resources Available in Spanish)

Online Resources

Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework*

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/school-readiness/article/head-start-early-learning-outcomes-framework>

ECLKC Culture and Language Page*

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/culture-language>

Effective Practice Guides: Language and Literacy*

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/school-readiness/effective-practice-guides/language-literacy>

Planned Language Approach*

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/culture-language/article/planned-language-approach>

- Big 5 for All and Children with Disabilities Who Are Dual Language Learners*
<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/children-disabilities/article/big-5-all-children-disabilities-who-are-dual-language-learners>
- Dual Language Learners: Considerations and Strategies for Home Visitors*
<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/publication/dual-language-learners-considerations-strategies-home-visitors>

- How to Use Bilingual Books
<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/how-to-use-bilingual-books.pdf>
- Organizing Learning Experiences
<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/dll-planning-organizing-thematic-instruction.pdf>
- Supporting English Language Development When Children Have Little Experience With English
<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/dll-english-language-development.pdf>

Dual Language Learners Program Assessment (DLLPA): User’s Guide*

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/culture-language/dual-language-learners-program-assessment-dllpa-users-guide/dual-language-learners-program-assessment-dllpa-users-guide>

Dual Language Learner Celebration Week

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/culture-language/article/dual-language-learner-celebration-week>

Environments That Support High-Quality Inclusion

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/video/environments-support-high-quality-inclusion>

Strengthening Equitable Learning Spaces and Building Belonging iPD Courses

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/professional-development/individualized-professional-development-ipd-portfolio/individualized-professional-development-ipd-portfolio>

Multicultural Principles for Early Childhood Leaders*

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/culture-language/article/multicultural-principles-early-childhood-leaders>

Partnering with Families of Children Who Are Dual Language Learners

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/publication/partnering-families-children-who-are-dual-language-learners>

Connecting Research to Practice Briefs

Brilliant Bilingual Babies*

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/publication/brilliant-bilingual-babies>

Supporting Children with Disabilities or Suspected Delays*

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/publication/supporting-children-disabilities-or-suspected-delays>

Supporting Early Brain Development: Building the Brain*

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/publication/supporting-early-brain-development-building-brain>

Webinars

Individualizing Instruction for Children with Disabilities Who Are Also Dual Language Learners

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/video/individualizing-instruction-children-disabilities-who-are-also-dual-language-learners>

Partnering with Families of Children Who Are Dual Language Learners

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/video/partnering-families-children-who-are-dual-language-learners>

Intentional Language Supports in the Preschool Classroom

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/video/intentional-language-supports-preschool-classroom>

Responsive Teaching and Learning Environments for Dual Language Learners

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/video/responsive-teaching-learning-environments-dual-language-learners>

Understanding Language Development to Inform High Quality Instructional Interactions

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/video/understanding-language-development-inform-high-quality-instructional-interactions>

National Research Update on Practices that Support Dual Language Learners

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/video/national-research-update-practices-support-dual-language-learners>

Advancing Racial and Ethnic Equity in Head Start

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/culture-language/article/advancing-racial-ethnic-equity-head-start>

Resource Collections

Equity, Inclusiveness, and Cultural and Linguistic Responsiveness* (some key resources available in Spanish)

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/school-readiness/article/equity-inclusiveness-cultural-linguistic-responsiveness>

The Importance of Home Language Series* (versions available in other languages)

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/culture-language/article/importance-home-language-series>

Indigenous Immigrant Families*

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/culture-language/article/indigenous-immigrant-families>