



Family Engagement Strategies for all Languages and Cultures

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Trusted Sources

Books by Karen N. Nemeth are being used in thousands of early childhood education classrooms.

[Learn More](#)

Featured Items



Getting Teachers Ready to Teach Young DLLs

A Professional Development Resource Kit



Many Languages, Building Connections

Supporting Infants and Toddlers Who Are Dual Language Learners



Digital Decisions

Technology for Early Childhood Edu.



The End

And so, in conclusion...

Family engagement for all languages and cultures depends on your ability to be open to changing our attitudes and practices.

Now...

Let's talk about the strategies that will get you there!



- Parent involvement?
- Parent engagement?
- Parents as partners?

We'll take this discussion
one step beyond!



Why are you interested in
family engagement?

POLL #1



Today's three goals:

1. To understand the families
2. To have the families understand you
3. To engage the families as partners in their child's education



What are your goals?

1. You want to understand all of the families but....
 - They speak a different language
 - They do things that seem strange to me
 - They act like they don't care
 - They are not responsible



Considerations for families when you don't understand:

- *Different language*
- *Different dialect*
- *Different culture*
- *Different expectations of their role in their child's education*
- *Different past experiences with schools*
- *Individual differences in temperament, communication skills*



Considerations for families when you don't understand:

- ***Believe*** they want the best for their child – but they may not agree with you
- ***Believe*** they are not having an easy life and you may not know the challenges they've faced
- ***Believe*** that there is no one book on “cultural awareness” that's going to help you relate to each individual family



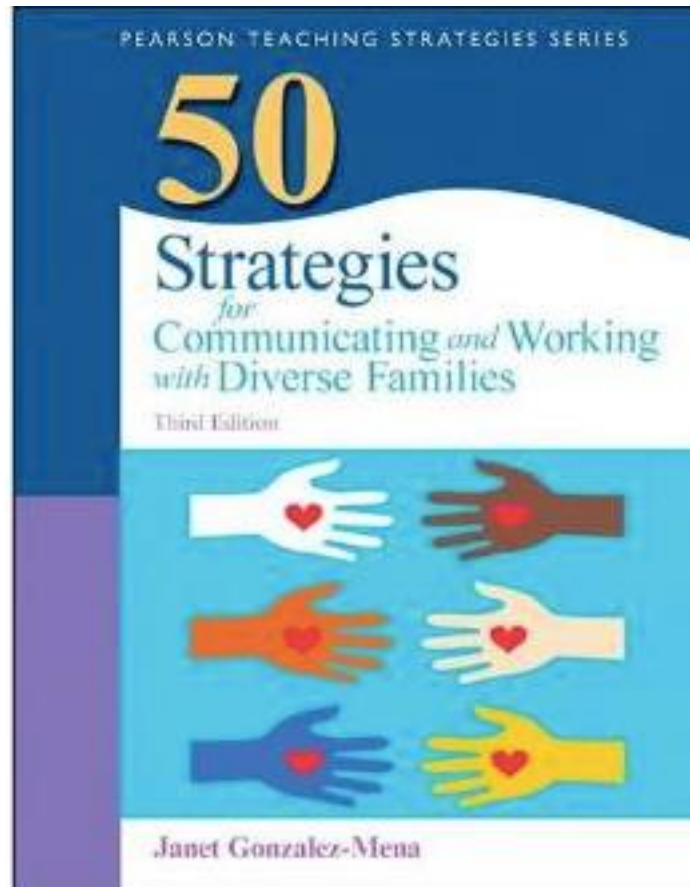
Strategies for Goal 1

- Digital translators with voice capabilities:
 - GoogleTranslate
 - iTranslate
- Telephone interpreter services
- Live certified interpreters
- Siblings as last resort



Resources for Goal 1

50 Strategies for Communicating and Working with Diverse Families (3rd ed.) 2013 by Janet Gonzalez-Mena



Strategies for Goal 1

- Building rapport across language barriers can only happen with time spent together. Try these:
 - Show a picture of their child and listen to how they talk about it.
 - Show an interest in learning how to say some of their words so they'll slow down and help you.
 - Spend time with individuals during field trips, class visits, or special events.



Strategies for Goal 1

Borrow from Powerful Interactions

by Judy Jablon, Charlotte Stetson, and Amy Dombro

www.powerfulinteractions.com

(It's all about the relationship!)



Strategies for Goal 1

Understanding cultural differences:

The Culture Quiz by Judie Haynes

http://www.everythingsl.net/downloads/culture_questions02.pdf

Not for ESOL Teachers (2nd ed) Eileen Whelan Ariza



Just remember...

Knowing where a family came from is just one step on the path to getting to know who they are!



Strategies for Goal 1

- Immigrant families are not like you:
 - They did not go to American schools
 - They did go to schools that built different expectations
 - They are more likely to live in poverty
 - They are likely to have family stress factors now or in the past



Strategies for Goal 1



Bridging Refugee Youth & Children's Services

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

Select Language |
WHAT IS THIS?

Home About BRYCS About Refugees What's New Publications Promising Practices Clearinghouse **DONATE**

- Child Welfare
- Family Strengthening
- Schools
- Youth Development
- Youth Arts Page
- Anti-Trafficking
- Head Start Collaboration
- Maya Health Toolkit for Medical Providers

Welcome

Your information hub for empowering immigrant children and their families.

SEARCH BRYCS.ORG

Announcements Events Funding Resources BRYCS Brief Awards

BRYCS Receives APSAC Award!

BRYCS is the winner of The American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children's (APSAC) Award for the Advancement of Cultural Competency in Child Maltreatment Prevention and Intervention!

[More Information](#)

BRYCS Photo/Courtesy of Claudia Gilmore



ANTI-TRAFFICKING

NEW Visit our new section on anti-trafficking.



Poll #2



Strategies for Goal 2

If you want families to understand you....

**You have to say less...
and make it count!**



Strategies for Goal 2

- Say less
- Simplify language
- Use standard recognizable phrases, colors, headings
- Use pictures
- No slang or lingo
- Multiple modes for the important things



Field Trip

Reply Needed

Calendar
Dates



Strategies for Goal 2

- Say less
- Simplify language
- Use standard recognizable phrases, colors, headings
- Use pictures

Think: adult versions of short notes, sentence frames and rebus messages



- "When parents are unable to talk to their children, they cannot easily convey to them their values, beliefs, understandings or wisdom about how to cope with their experiences. They cannot teach them about the meaning of work, or about personal responsibility, or what it means to be a moral or ethical person in a world with too many choices and too few guideposts to follow. What is lost are the bits of advice, the consejos parents should be able to offer children in their everyday interactions with them. Talk is a crucial link between parents and their children: It is how parents impart their cultures to their children and enable them to become the kind of men and women they want them to be. When parents lose the means for socializing and influencing their children, rifts develop and families lose the intimacy that comes from shared beliefs and understandings." Lilly Wong Fillmore (1991)



*What happens when people just
pour information on you?*



Strategies for Goal 2

- Change communication from



to



Two-Way Communication with diverse parents

- Photos
- Facebook/website
- Texts
- Email
- Phone call/voicemail
- Other parents!



Strategies for Goal 2

Q. Why does social media work?

A. Because it's SOCIAL!

Think of information you send home as the start of a conversation

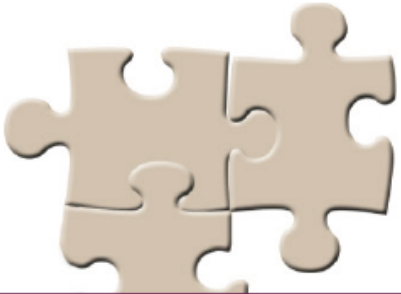


Strategies for Goal 2

- Gathering and Using Language Information that Families Share

http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/tta-system/cultural-linguistic/docs/dll_background_info.pdf



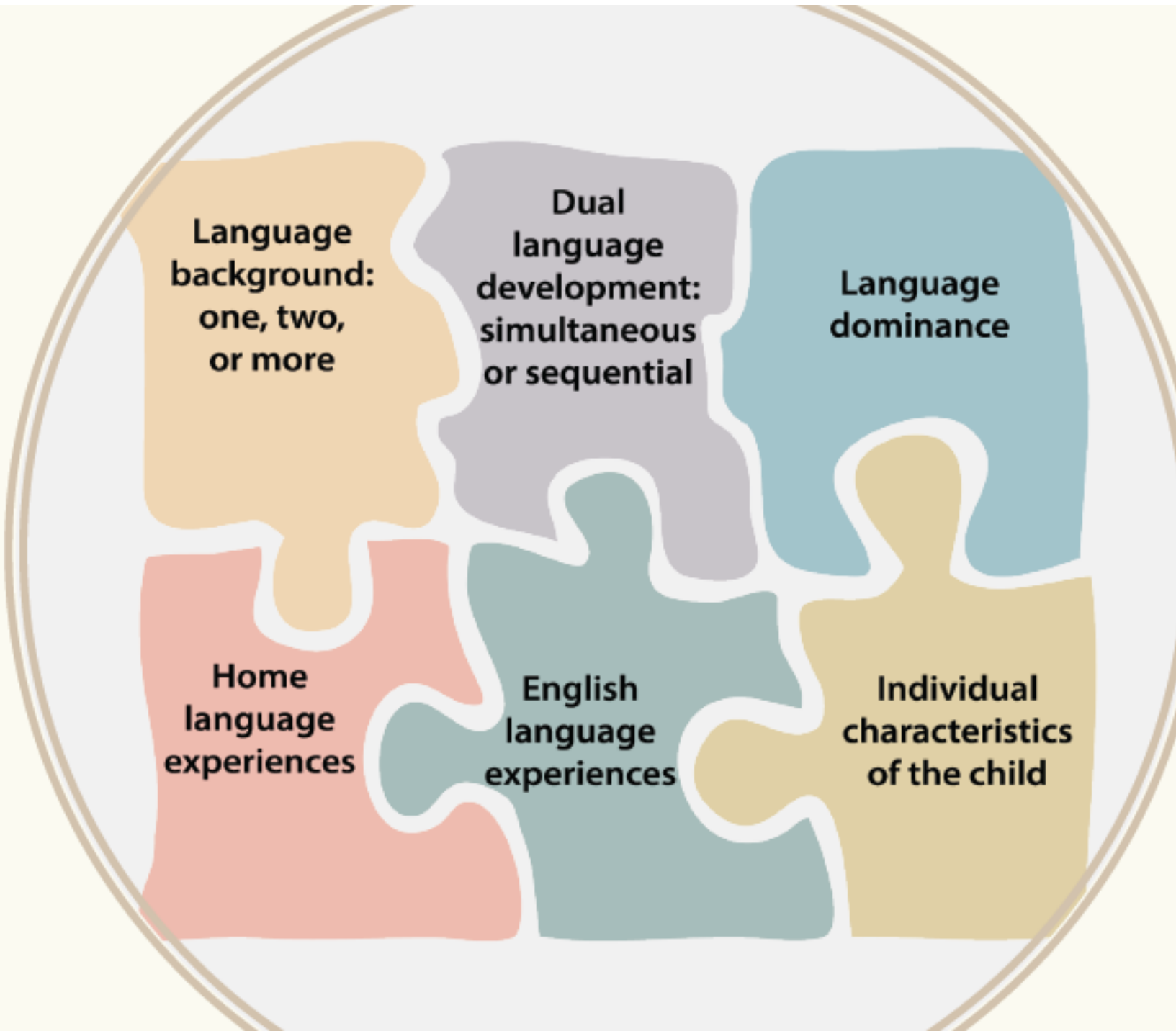


Gathering and Using Language Information that Families Share

EXPANDED!

One-third of the children in Early Head Start and Head Start are Dual Language Learners (DLLs). Recent research provides insights into dual language development and key ways





**Language background:
one, two,
or more**

**Dual
language
development:
simultaneous
or sequential**

**Language
dominance**

**Home
language
experiences**

**English
language
experiences**

**Individual
characteristics
of the child**



Who knows the child's home language best?
Their FAMILY!



Strategies for Goal 3

Helping families get involved as partners in their child's learning...

Starts with listening and responding



Goal 3: Helping families support language and literacy at home

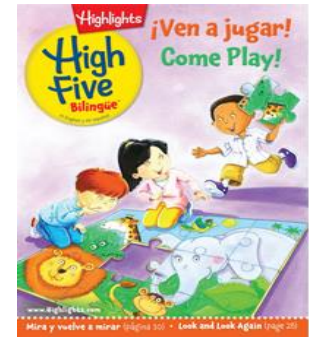
- Research shows conversations are key
- Reading books is good – talking WITH children ABOUT books, stories, and poems is better



*High Five Bilingüe*TM Parent Guide

In this month's issue, you'll discover in Spanish and English:

- how Jack and Isabella find their missing friend, Lola,
- how Jake learns to skate,
- what happens when Spot encounters snow,
- how to play a circle game, and
- other fun puzzles, poems, stories, and games.



Children learn a lot about language by moving their bodies. Your actions while talking and reading stories also help your child understand the words you say. Non-verbal communication is especially helpful to children who are learning in two languages. This month, *High Five Bilingüe*TM provides many opportunities to help your child connect what they hear in English and Spanish, with what they do.



In English **En español**

A bilingual site for families and educators of English language learners

For Educators**For Families**

- + What you can do at home
- + Helping your child succeed at school
- + Building Strong Parent-Educator Partnerships
- + Let's read
- + FAQs

Books & Authors**Glossary**
Topics from A-Z**Research & Reports****Free Guides & Toolkits****LearningStore**
Webcasts**Multimedia**
E-Newsletters**Web Resources**
Calendar**About Us****Contact Us**

You are here: > For Families

For Families

Welcome to ¡Colorín Colorado! ¡Bienvenidos!

This bilingual section was created just for parents and families to provide you with the information you need to help your child become a good reader and a successful student.



Research shows that it's vitally important for children to have a good start in reading. Reading is the key to success at school and in life. And because you are your child's first and best teacher, what you do at home – even before your child goes to school – is what will help him or her become a skilled and confident reader.

When you click below, you'll find simple, but powerful ways to help your child become a successful reader. There are fun reading tips and activities, suggestions for choosing books to read with your child, ideas for getting involved at your child's school, and much, much more.

- 🔍 **What you can do at home**
- 🔍 **Helping your child succeed at school**
- 🔍 **Building Strong Parent-Teacher Partnerships**
- 🔍 **Let's read:** Fun reading tips, activities, and more!

We hope that you enjoy exploring the Colorín Colorado website. Feel free to print out and use any of the information you find here. And most of all, enjoy reading with your child – you can find many great recommended books in the **Books & Authors** section. As the late, beloved **Celia Cruz** said, "Reading is a carnival!"

Sincerely,

Search Colorín Colorado

Google™ Custom Sea

Free newsletters

Your e-mail here

Text Size

Printer Friendly

Email to a Friend



Major support for Colorín Colorado is provided by the American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO.

From Santiago, Chile, please accept my most sincere congratulations for the wonderful work you are developing. I am a librarian and your articles, activities, and recommended books have supported my work in the library, where I work for children, parents, educators, and other librarians.
~ Paulina O.



T/TA System

Early Head Start

Cultural and Linguistic Responsiveness

► National Center on Cultural and Linguistic Responsiveness

Program Management and Fiscal Operations

Quality Teaching and Learning

Health

Parent, Family, and Community Engagement

Professional Development



Dual Language Learners and Their Families

Head Start Bilingual Glossary

NCCLR Resources

Every individual is rooted in *culture*

Multicultural Principle 1

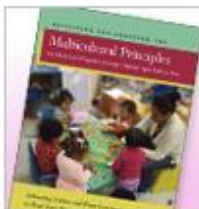


1 2 3 4 5 6

Was this page helpful?

YES

NO



Multicultural Principles



Professional Development



Resources by Role



Refugee Families



Program Preparedness Checklist



NCCLR Events

Head Start NCCLR on ECLKC

Learning to think in young dual language learners should know

English language versions

The Benefits of Being Bilingual



Most two-year-olds are not yet able to speak more than one language. However, by age 5, many children are able to speak two languages. This is called being bilingual. Being bilingual has many benefits for children's cognitive and social-emotional development.

Benefits: An Overview

Cognitive	Social-Emotional
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individuals who are bilingual can better understand different languages. They have an easier time learning a third language. Children and adults who are bilingual have a better understanding of the world around them. Understanding more than one language helps children understand different cultures and traditions. Children who are bilingual are better at solving word problems. Children who are bilingual are better at reading and writing. Children who are bilingual are better at understanding and expressing their feelings. Children who are bilingual are better at understanding and expressing their feelings. Children who are bilingual are better at understanding and expressing their feelings. Children who are bilingual are better at understanding and expressing their feelings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learning bilingual helps children understand different cultures and traditions. Children who are bilingual are better at understanding and expressing their feelings. Children who are bilingual are better at understanding and expressing their feelings. Children who are bilingual are better at understanding and expressing their feelings. Children who are bilingual are better at understanding and expressing their feelings. Children who are bilingual are better at understanding and expressing their feelings. Children who are bilingual are better at understanding and expressing their feelings. Children who are bilingual are better at understanding and expressing their feelings.

The Gift of Language



For Families

Language is one of the most important gifts you give your child. How can you give it?

The answer is simple: **Speak your language with your child or family every day!**

- Why is being bilingual important?**

Being bilingual is a gift. It helps children understand different cultures and traditions. It also helps them understand the world around them. Children who are bilingual are better at understanding and expressing their feelings.
- What are the benefits of being bilingual?**

Children who are bilingual are better at understanding and expressing their feelings. They are also better at understanding and expressing their feelings. Children who are bilingual are better at understanding and expressing their feelings.
- How can you be bilingual?**

Children who are bilingual are better at understanding and expressing their feelings. They are also better at understanding and expressing their feelings. Children who are bilingual are better at understanding and expressing their feelings.
- It's just one language, isn't it?**

Children who are bilingual are better at understanding and expressing their feelings. They are also better at understanding and expressing their feelings. Children who are bilingual are better at understanding and expressing their feelings.

Language at Home and in the Community



For Families

There are eight things you can do every day to help your child learn your family's language and become successful in school!

- Use your language at home.**

Children who are bilingual are better at understanding and expressing their feelings. They are also better at understanding and expressing their feelings. Children who are bilingual are better at understanding and expressing their feelings.
- Use your language in the community.**

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- Use your language in school.**

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Language at Home and in the Community



For Teachers

It's important to share with families that language is one of the most important gifts you give your child. How can you give it?

The answer is simple: **Speak your language with your child or family every day!**

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Spanish language versions

Las ventajas de ser bilingüe



La mayoría de los niños de dos años no pueden hablar más de un idioma. Sin embargo, a los 5 años, muchos niños pueden hablar dos idiomas. Esto se llama ser bilingüe. Ser bilingüe tiene muchos beneficios para el desarrollo cognitivo y socio-emocional de los niños.

Ventajas: Visión General

Cognitivas	Socio-emocionales
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Los individuos que son bilingües pueden comprender mejor diferentes idiomas. Les resulta más fácil aprender un tercer idioma. Los niños y los adultos que son bilingües tienen una mejor comprensión del mundo que los rodea. Comprender más de un idioma ayuda a los niños a comprender diferentes culturas y tradiciones. Los niños que son bilingües son mejores resolviendo problemas de palabras. Los niños que son bilingües son mejores leyendo y escribiendo. Los niños que son bilingües son mejores entendiendo y expresando sus sentimientos. Los niños que son bilingües son mejores entendiendo y expresando sus sentimientos. Los niños que son bilingües son mejores entendiendo y expresando sus sentimientos. Los niños que son bilingües son mejores entendiendo y expresando sus sentimientos. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aprender un idioma bilingüe ayuda a los niños a comprender diferentes culturas y tradiciones. Los niños que son bilingües son mejores entendiendo y expresando sus sentimientos. Los niños que son bilingües son mejores entendiendo y expresando sus sentimientos. Los niños que son bilingües son mejores entendiendo y expresando sus sentimientos. Los niños que son bilingües son mejores entendiendo y expresando sus sentimientos. Los niños que son bilingües son mejores entendiendo y expresando sus sentimientos. Los niños que son bilingües son mejores entendiendo y expresando sus sentimientos. Los niños que son bilingües son mejores entendiendo y expresando sus sentimientos.

El don del lenguaje



Para las familias

El lenguaje es uno de los dones más importantes que usted puede regalarle a su hijo. ¿Pero cómo se lo otorga?

La respuesta es sencilla: **Hable con su hijo en casa en su idioma madre los días!**

- ¿Por qué es importante el idioma del hogar?**

El idioma que usted habla con su hijo es el primer idioma que aprende. Es el primer idioma que ayuda a su hijo a comprender el mundo que lo rodea. Los niños que aprenden su primer idioma en casa son mejores resolviendo problemas de palabras. Los niños que aprenden su primer idioma en casa son mejores leyendo y escribiendo. Los niños que aprenden su primer idioma en casa son mejores entendiendo y expresando sus sentimientos.
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El lenguaje en el hogar y en la comunidad



Para las familias

El conocimiento de más de un idioma puede ayudar a su hijo a aprender el idioma de la familia y lograr el éxito académico.

En la escuela en casa:

- Es importante que usted hable con su hijo en su idioma madre los días. Esto ayuda a su hijo a comprender el mundo que lo rodea. Los niños que aprenden su primer idioma en casa son mejores resolviendo problemas de palabras. Los niños que aprenden su primer idioma en casa son mejores leyendo y escribiendo. Los niños que aprenden su primer idioma en casa son mejores entendiendo y expresando sus sentimientos.
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El lenguaje en el hogar y en la comunidad



Para las familias

Es importante compartir con las familias que el lenguaje es uno de los dones más importantes que usted puede regalarle a su hijo. ¿Pero cómo se lo otorga?

La respuesta es sencilla: **Hable con su hijo en casa en su idioma madre los días!**

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Strategies for Goal 3

- Don't just keep sending stuff home!



Strategies for Goal 3

Effective Parent Engagement for DLLs is...

- Personal
- Respectful
- Mutual
- Ongoing
- Meaningful
- For school and for home



Remind is a free, safe, easy-to-use communication tool that helps teachers connect instantly with students and parents.

remind.com

remind

Love Remind? Mrs. Mindler

To: Trigonometry ✕ +Add classes or subscribers

Type your message here

Sent Scheduled

Trigonometry

Sketch 9:41 AM 42%

remind

Earth Science 2 hrs ago

Nice job today, everyone!

27

Trigonometry 3 hrs ago

Mrs. Jones: Homework correction, read chapters 4-8. Tomorrow's test still

Mrs. Hendrick: Bring your books to class, will be practicing our level four geometry in preparation for final exams.

My feed

Earth Science 2 hrs ago

ic...ish technology

2

ography & 2 more 3 hrs ago

Hendrick: Bring your books to class. We will be practicing our So

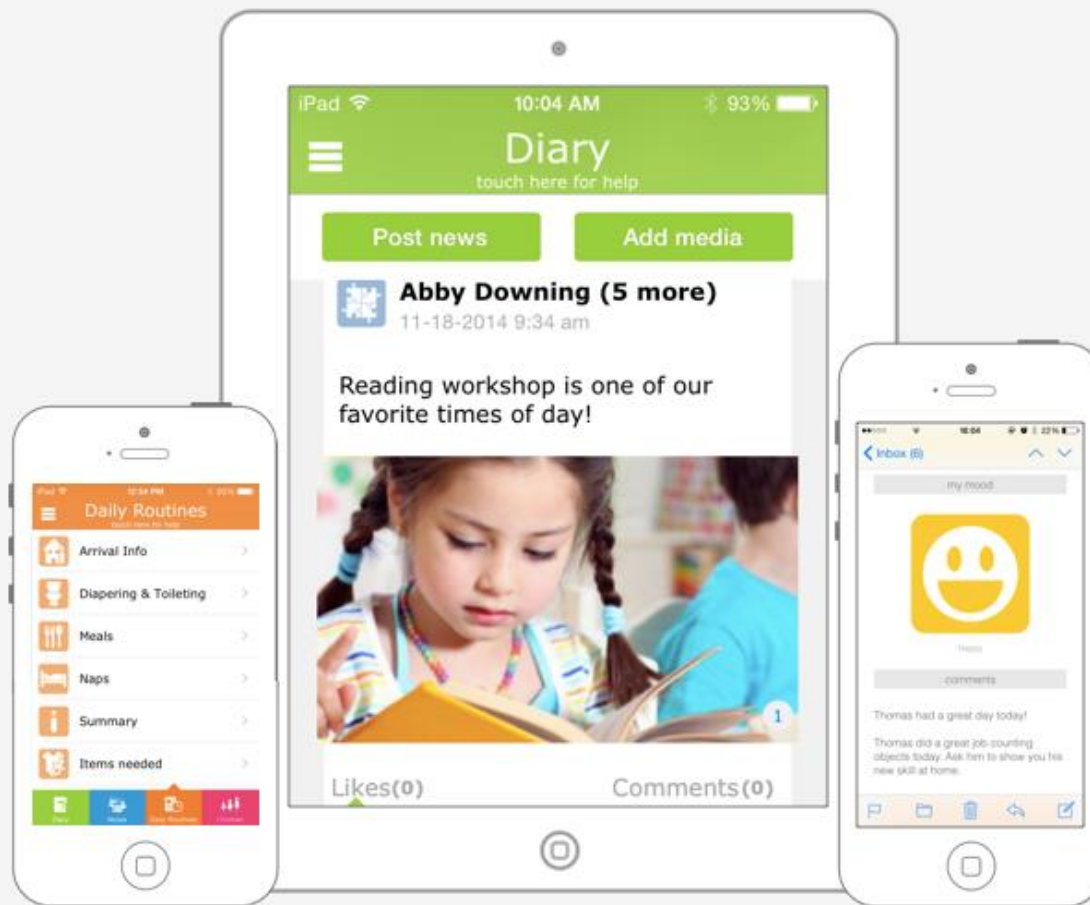
★ ✓ ✕ ?



Helping families support language and literacy at home

- Research shows conversations are key
- Reading books is good – talking WITH children ABOUT books, stories, and poems is better





Strategies for Goal 3:



READYROSIE

Ready for school. Ready for the world.

FREE TRIAL

HOME ABOUT US CONTACT WHY RR WORKS RESOURCES READYBABY

THE VIDEO CONTENT

PARENT ENGAGEMENT GOES MOBILE...

- TWO MINUTE DAILY VIDEOS IN ENGLISH AND IN SPANISH
- REAL PARENTS, REAL KIDS, REAL LIFE SETTINGS
- TRACK USAGE WITH DATA REPORTS



Engaging parents from different languages and cultures

If you want parents to come to school:

- ask them for help
- give them something **THEY** need
- don't try to “fix” them!



Research base

- Head Start's Family Engagement in Transitions series:

<http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/tta-system/family/docs/transitions-kindergarten.pdf>

- Harvard Grad School of Ed project: Family Involvement Network of Educators

<http://www.hfrp.org/family-involvement/informing-family-engagement-policy>

- NAEYC's Engaging Diverse Families Project

<http://www.naeyc.org/familyengagement/about>





Harvard Family Research Project



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[HFRP](#) > [Family Involvement](#) > [Informing Family Engagement Policy](#)

COMPLEMENTARY LEARNING

FAMILY INVOLVEMENT

- > [Overview](#)
- > [Informing Family Engagement Policy](#)
- > [FINE: Family Involvement Network of Educators](#)
- > [Projects](#)
- > [Publications & Resources](#)
- > [Staff](#)

OUT-OF-SCHOOL TIME

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Informing Family Engagement Policy

- [How Harvard Family Research Project informs policy](#)
- [Harvard Family Research Project's policy work](#)
 - [National Coordination Center for the Parental Information and Resource Centers](#)
 - [The National Family, School, and Community Engagement Working Group](#)
 - [National Policy Forum on Family, School, and Community Engagement](#)
 - [Policy recommendations](#)
 - [Harvard Family Research Project's accomplishments to inform policy](#)
 - [Policy briefs and publications](#)

How Harvard Family Research Project informs policy

Harvard Family Research Project (HFRP) offers policymakers and education advocates the research base to develop effective policies that promote family engagement as a strategy to achieve student success. HFRP catalyzes new ideas to create pathways for families to promote the cognitive, social-emotional, and healthy development of children from cradle to career.



Poll #3



But... researchers find many ineffective strategies:

- “Random acts of family engagement”



And now findings show that

- Family engagement must be a shared responsibility, and must be:
 - Systemic!
 - Integrated!
 - Sustained!





**BACK TO SCHOOL
NIGHT!**







Examples for Goal 3:

- Avance - making toys together
- New Brunswick - learning English and creating books for their children
- Cookbook project
- Family fix-up day

■ **DIVERSITY TEAM**



New book out March 2015

In It Together: How Student, Family,
and Community Partnerships Advance
Engagement and Achievement in
Diverse Classrooms

by Debbie Zacarian and Michael Silverstone



Get this movie - or the trailer



The End

And so, in conclusion...

Family engagement for all languages and cultures depends on your ability to be open to changing our attitudes and practices.

Now...

You know that it's all about building relationships, one family at a time!



Karen@languagecastle.com

**We all
Smile
In the
Same
Language**

