

## **Teaching Practices to Support English Language Learners**

- Speak slowly and clearly.
- Simplify language when speaking English.
- Speak within context of activity – talk about what’s happening now.
- Describe what the child is doing or seeing in English.
- Point, act out, repeat, use gestures to help children understand English.
- Motivate volunteers and relatives that speak home languages to participate in program.
- Reinforce children’s home language via:
  - Songs in home language,
  - Games in home language,
  - Finger plays in home language,
  - Books in home language.
- Support home language by learning words, phrases in children’s home language.
- Reduce stress by learning words and phrases in children’s home language.

## **Teaching Practices Specifically for Bilingual Staff**

Use basic strategies listed above and add the following strategies:

- Avoid immediate translation – use props and gestures to encourage children to guess at meaning.
- Occasionally recap briefly in home language so child understands the context.
- Speak home language whenever there are safety or discipline issues.
- Introduce new concepts in home language when possible.
- Organize separate use of both languages by schedule if possible (for example am/pm or by day of the week).
- Use schedule & routines to help children connect events and language.

## **Teaching Practices for Teachers and Providers that are English Learners**

- Strengthen children’s home language.
- Invite English speaking volunteers and relatives to participate in program.
- Introduce children to English speaking children (field trips, community events, neighborhood).
- Encourage and support English speaking children to use English with peers.
- Introduce English via:
  - Songs in English,
  - Games in English,
  - Finger plays in English,
  - Concept books in English.
- Introduce English with concrete vocabulary – names of objects, simple verbs.
- Introduce English with common social phrases, greetings, etc.
- Encourage staff to study English.

## What Supports English Language Development in a Preschool Environment?

- ❖ Incorporating the use of a schedule
- ❖ Establishing a consistent set of routines to help children to connect events and language
- ❖ Create an environment where students can become members of the group
- ❖ Incorporate small group activities
- ❖ Include a mix of first-and-second language children in organized small groups
- ❖ Students translating for other students
- ❖ Use small group time as a way to involve the second language learner
- ❖ Use gestures or non-verbal actions to model for students
- ❖ “Talk While Doing” explaining actions as an activity happens
- ❖ Use language that is directly connected to the objects or the action
- ❖ Provide children with opportunities to experiment and practice new language
- ❖ Total physical response activities
- ❖ Multisensory learning
- ❖ Climate which respects and values cultural diversity