

# 5 PRACTICAL STRATEGIES for

# Supporting Dual Language Learners' Language and Literacy Skills

Support young dual language learners' language and literacy skills with these five practical, easy-to-implement classroom strategies.

## 1 Focus on Language Development and Extended Vocabulary

Language skills can be developed in the home language and can support learning a second language.

**Example:** A read-aloud lesson that includes activities before, during, and after reading that are focused on oral language and vocabulary learning.

## 2 Foster Phonological Awareness

Phonological awareness can be supported in early childhood classrooms by activities such as listening to and creating rhymes, word and language games, etc.

**Example:** Teachers of infants and toddlers can begin introducing concepts of phonological awareness through the use of finger play and rhyming songs.

## 3 Integrate Instruction on Letter Recognition, Decoding, and Word Recognition Skills

These skills can be promoted by activities and lessons that focus on letter knowledge.

**Example:** Having a letter of the day, practicing writing letters and words, building a word wall with sight vocabulary, matching pictures to words, etc.

## 4 Support Learning About Book Concepts and Print Knowledge

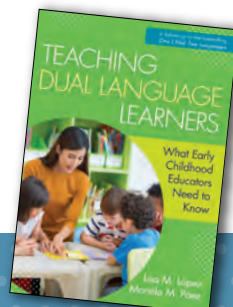
Teachers can support learning the conventions of books and written language by exposing children to texts through regular reading, noting features of books (e.g. title, author, illustrator, front cover, back cover, where to start reading).

**Example:** Teachers can begin read-alouds by asking children questions about book concepts such as "Who is the author of the book?" "Is there an illustrator of the book?" "What is the title of the book?" "Where should we start reading?"

## 5 Engage Students in Early Writing

Teachers can extend print knowledge by engaging children in writing activities, starting with drawing and scribbling. Later, as children learn how to write letters, they can write their names, labels, and signs for the classroom.

**Example:** In a Head Start classroom, a teacher has set up a dramatic play area as a post office. She's included materials for writing such as envelopes, pencils, stamps that she's made, and labels for addresses. Children then write and "send" letters to each other.



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