Quick Reference

**Dual Language Learners:** Young children birth to age five who are mastering their home language while learning English simultaneously.

**Benefits of Dual Language Learning**
- Maintain close relationships with family
- Develop cognitive flexibility, logic and thinking skills
- Focus attention better
- More easily understand math concepts
- Develop executive function skills

**Home Visitor Role:**
- Help parents understand how their child develops language
- Bring and encourage activities that promote language development
- Model language, reading, singing and creating stories
- Screen the child for language and other delays
- Make a referral for Early Intervention, if you suspect delays
- Provide an interpreter when needed
- Offer resources and written materials in the family’s home language, whenever possible
- Provide referrals for early education and adult English classes
- Support families as children transition to early childhood and school-based programs

**Cultural Humility**
- Self-Reflection and Self-Critique
- Confront Imbalances
- Develop Partnerships

**Gathering Language Information**

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*Developed in Partnership by:
Health Education Design Group, IHHS, James Madison University, 2017*
Supporting Dual Language Learning Families
Resources

For Families:


- The Gift of Language
- Hearing Language is Learning
- Language at Home and in the Community for Families
- Raising Young Children in a New Country: Supporting Early Learning and Healthy Development – available in English, Arabic and Spanish

For Providers:

Head Start Early Childhood Learning & Knowledge Center

- Healthy Brain Development Tip Sheet
- Language Modeling with Dual Language Learning Infants
- Language Modeling with Dual Language Learning Toddlers
- Supporting English Language Development When Children Have Little Experience with English
- Same Different and Diverse
- Selecting and Using Culturally Responsive Children's Books
- Every individual is rooted in culture, Head Start Early Childhood Learning & Knowledge Center.
  - The Benefits of Being Bilingual
  - Language at Home and in the Community for Teachers
  - Gathering and Using Language Information that Families Share

The Young Dual Language Learner: 20 Short Videos

Where We Stand On Assessing Young English Language Learners, NAEYC

Newcomer Toolkit, U. S. Department of Education and the National Center for English Language Acquisition. Many of the resources are for K-12 educators as they welcome and support students, and engage their families. Some of the resources can be adapted to use with home visits.

- Information for Limited English Proficient Parents and Guardians and for Schools and School Districts that Communicate with Them – Available in Other Languages
- I Have a Question... What Parents and Caregivers Can Ask and Do to Help Children Thrive at School: A Parent Checklist

Dual Language Learners: Indicators of Child and Youth Well-Being, Child Trends Data Bank, November 2014

State Immigration Data Profile, Migration Policy Institute, 2017.

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