

Principles for Promoting Language, Literacy and Learning for Preschool English Learners

The ten principles below are incorporated throughout the website. Taken together, these principles foster an environment that respects and values linguistic and cultural diversity.

1. Education for English Learners is enhanced when preschool programs and families partner around children's education.
2. Children benefit when teachers understand and incorporate cultural differences into language use within their daily routine.
3. Successful practices promote shared experiences in which language is used as a meaningful tool to communicate interests, ideas, and emotions.
4. Language development and learning are promoted when preschool teachers and children creatively and interactively use language.
5. Experimenting with the use, form, purpose, and intent of both the first and second language leads to growth in the acquisition of the second language.
6. Continued use and development of the child's home language will benefit the child as he or she acquires English.
7. Code switching is a normal part of language development for many bilingual children.
8. Coordination and collaboration among families, teachers, and specialists become crucial in supporting the language and literacy development of children with disabilities and other special needs.
9. Engaging in multiple literacy practices, such as reading books, singing songs, and reciting poetry, is part of the daily life of most families.
10. Offering a variety of opportunities for children to explore written materials and their meanings as well as the sounds of spoken language through rhyme and alliteration builds the language and literacy skills of preschool English Learners.