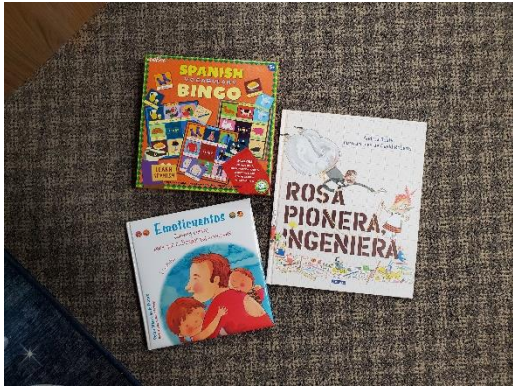


The Power of Language: Bilingual Literacy



Tips for Supporting:

- Infants & Toddlers
- Preschool-Age Children
- School-Age Children

To support bilingual literacy development for infants & toddlers, try these activities:

- Build a personal relationship with the children in your care by talking and singing to children in their home languages. These simple activities help young children feel special and loved as well as supporting early development.
- Address children by their given names and avoid assigning nicknames. This helps children to feel like they are an important part of your class.
- Connect with families to learn common phrases, stories, or songs to share with children. This supports children by building a home-school connection and helps families to feel welcome in the program.

To support bilingual literacy development for preschool & school-age children, try these activities:

- Be intentional in labeling materials around your classroom. Ensure that all labels are at children's eye-level with corresponding pictures and print in children's home languages.
- Provide children with books in different languages. Be sure to include stories from other cultures, especially those reflected in your classroom.
- Use word plays, rhymes and stories to teach early literacy concepts. Children learning English as a second language can benefit from participating in such activities, as many early literacy skills can be transferred across languages.

Did you know? Research shows that children that are bilingual experience many academic advantages, such as increased cognitive flexibility, and increased multitasking and problem-solving skills. For more information on ways to plan for and support bilingual children, see *Full Participation of Each Child* (available at nmels.org).

Ideas borrowed from Colorin Colorado: [8 Strategies for Preschool ELLs' Language and Literacy Development](http://colorincolorado.org) | [Colorin Colorado \(colorincolorado.org\)](http://colorincolorado.org) these ideas and more can also be found through our UNM ECSC Training *Full Participation of Every Child* found at www.nmels.org.