Empowering Families to Develop Language in Everyday Life
Using their Home Language

Presented by Patricia Montes Pate & Ana Marisol Sánchez

Hosted by SEAL.org

• Our mission: To prepare all Dual Language Learners/English Learners in California to learn, thrive and lead.
Purposes

• The power of home language
• Two-way communication
• Social-emotional and positive identity development
• Ideas on how to support & engage in meaningful conversations at home

Facts about English Learners in California

Which languages are spoken by your children?

Resource: CDE CaEDFacts, Fall 2018
COMMON MYTHS about Bilingualism

- Learning two languages confuses children!
- Speaking their home language will hinder children’s development of English.
- English immersion is the best way for a child to learn English.
- Children will maintain their home language while they learn English.
- English is the only language necessary for success!

Benefits of Being Bilingual

Cognitive, Linguistic, Economic, Cultural, Family
New Generation of Research

- All children have the capacity to learn 2 or more languages
- Ages 0-7 is optimal time for developing near native like proficiency in multiple languages
- Strong home language supports learning English
- Children need exposure to competent language role models
- Early exposure to English can result in loss of home language

Resource: NASEM Brief & FAQs about DLLs

SEAL.org
What does SEAL mean by Family Partnership?

Building strong partnerships between families & schools to support children’s success while also valuing the home language and culture of every family and child.
Resources: Family Languages & Interest Interviews

Head Start Planned Language Approach
Gathering and Using Language Information that Families Share

California Department of Education
Preschool Program Guidelines
Sample Family Languages Interview

School
• Social-Emotional Development
• Positive Identity Development

Home

Family Conversations in their Home Language
Family Conversations and Projects

- Family activities that promote oral language
  - open-ended—no right/wrong answers
  - do not require background knowledge
  - occur in their HOME LANGUAGE

Social – Emotional Development

School

Home

Family Conversations in their Home Language
Social – Emotional Development

**School**
1. Literature & discussion about feelings and emotions
2. Chart of emotions
3. Routine Check-Ins
4. Web of Joy

**Home**
Family conversations & activities that focus on feelings & emotions:
- Emotions chart or book
- Daily Check-Ins
- Web of Joy

**Family Conversations in their Home Language**

**1. Literature About Feelings and Emotions**

*When Sophie Gets Angry—Really, Really Angry...*  
*Cuando Sofía se enoja, se enoja de veras...*  
By Molly Bang

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1. Literature About Feelings and Emotions

School
• During the reading, be sure to pause & have discussions about how Sophie was feeling
  - What did she do to calm herself down?
  - What do you do to self-soothe?

2. Chart of Emotions

School
• Use focus on physical and visual cues
• Expose children to sophisticated terms
Family Conversations

Feelings and Emotions

In their HOME Language

-Talk about the different emotions and feelings your child and you experience. Use expressive, complex language.

Possible extensions:
-Create a chart with photos of your child expressing various emotions.
**Family Conversations**

**Feelings and Emotions**

*In their HOME Language*

Possible extensions:
- Create a book with photos of your child expressing various emotions.

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**Resource: List of Emotional and Feelings Words**

### Español / English

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<th>English</th>
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3. Routine Check-Ins on Feelings and Emotions

School
• Have check-ins at the start/end of your meetings with children
  - Ask them, “How are you feeling today?”
  - Teacher shares how they are feeling.

Family Conversations

Daily Check-Ins about Feelings and Emotions

In their HOME Language
- Have daily conversations reflecting on feelings and emotions that surface throughout the day. Discuss highlights and challenges that occurred.

Possible Extension:
- Share with your child how you are feeling.
4. Web of Joy

School
- Talk about the many things that bring us JOY!
- Share your own Web of Joy

Family Conversations

What Brings us Joy?

In their HOME Language

-Talk about all the things that bring your child joy.
**Family Conversations**

**Web of Joy**

*In their HOME Language*

**Possible extensions:**
- Create a Web of Joy with your child and continue adding to it, refer to the web when your child needs a reminders of how to feel joy.
- Create a Family Web of Joy

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**Social – Emotional Development**

**School**
- 1. Literature & discussion about feelings and emotions
- 2. Chart of emotions
- 3. Routine Check-Ins
- 4. Web of Joy

**Home**
- Family conversations & activities that focus on feelings & emotions:
  - Emotions chart or book
  - Daily Check-Ins
  - Web of Joy

*Family Conversations in their Home Language*
Positive Identity Development

School

1. Literature & discussion about names
2. Story of My Name
3. I am Called __ (Poster)
4. Family Photos
5. Special Food / Item

Home

Family Conversations in their Home Language

Family Conversations & activities that focus on positive identity:
- Story of My Name
- I am Called __ (Poster)
- Family Photos
- Special Food / Item
1. Literature about Names

School
• Use literature to establish the idea of feelings and stories behind names

• Discuss the story & how the Alma’s perspective changed throughout the story
2. The Story of My Name

School
- Share the story of your name, using visuals wherever possible

Family Conversations

The Story of My Name

In their HOME Language
- Share the story of your child’s name.
Family Conversations

The Story of My Name

Possible Extensions:
- Write the story of their name on a piece of paper. Have your child write his/her name and add a drawing or decoration.
- Share the stories behind the names of other family members.

3. I am Called _______ Poster

School
- Talk about how nicknames and terms of endearment are part of our identity.
- Create & share your “I am called ____” poster.
Family Conversations

I am Called _____

In their HOME Language

- With your child, reflect on the various names others use to refer to him/her.

Possible Extension:
- Create an I am Called ____ poster. Have the child write his/her name and add a drawing or decoration.
4. Family Photos

**School**

- Use literature to talk about the importance of sharing memorable family events and experiences.

- Share photos and tell the story of the event or people in the photos.
Family Conversations

Family Photos

In their HOME Language

- View family photos and tell the story of the event or people in the photos. Make connections to how the photos make you feel. Use expressive, complex language.

5. Special Food

School

• Use literature to talk about important family foods connected to family traditions and celebrations.
5. Special Item

School
• Share story/meaning behind an item that is important to you.

Family Conversations

Special Food / Item

In their HOME Language
- Share stories about important foods connected to family traditions and celebrations
- Share stories about items that hold significant value
Positive Identity Development

School

Home

Family Conversations in their Home Language

Resource: Letters On the Importance of Home Language

Dear Families,

We know these are very challenging times for everyone. SEAL is here to highlight some of the positive things you can do to support your child and help them feel safe and supported. Positive identity development is critical for academic success, social-emotional growth, and overall well-being. One language does not define the whole person, nor does it separate us from each other.

Here are some ways that you can celebrate and incorporate home language into your everyday routines:

- Let your child know the beauty and value of their home/hispanic language. 
- Talk with your children. Use expressive and complex language to talk about events, stories, and experiences. This helps them develop language and cognitive skills.
- Share stories in your home language. 
- Model and provide time for oral storytelling in your home language. 
- Plan reading times, ask your child to read in your family language. 
- Ask your child to express their thoughts and feelings. 
- Write letters together, share stories about family meals, important family trips, traditions, etc.
- Include language in conversations at the dinner table and challenges (news and family).

Using your home language throughout the activity and encouraging your children to do the same fosters a sense of belonging and builds their confidence and identity.

We want to encourage all families to seize opportunities to integrate your child's home language of your family.

Partnership,

SEAL.org
Questions?

Thank You

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