



First 5 California and American Institutes for Research (AIR) conducted a DLL pilot study to identify and promote effective strategies that Early Learning and Care programs can use to support DLLs and their families. Early Edge California identified key takeaways of the study.

GENERAL DLL INFORMATION

- Nearly all California centers and family child care homes serve DLLs, and many programs serve children from multiple language backgrounds.

INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES

- More home language use in Early Learning classrooms results in positive academic and language outcomes.
- Being in a classroom where the home language is used regularly does not have any negative impact on English skills for DLLs.
- Having more books in children's home languages in the classroom supports vocabulary and oral comprehension.
- The use of basic phrases and songs in the home language by teachers helps children's home language development.

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

- When families receive positive messaging about bilingualism from their child's Early Learning program, they are more likely to value it.
- Providing learning materials to DLL families results in them engaging in more learning activities with their child at home.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- When teachers receive DLL-focused professional development they are more likely to use instructional and family engagement practices that support DLLs.
- There is an evident need and desire from teachers for more professional development to support DLLs and their families.

EARLY LEARNING PROGRAM ENROLLMENT

- DLLs benefit from being enrolled in and consistently attending an Early Learning program.