

BILINGUAL LITERACIES

READING, WRITING, Plus MATH Literacy

The following examples of bilingual resources to improve reading and math skills have been selected by the DePaul University Center for Urban Education from materials available on-line from recognized educational organizations, including the National Education Association, the Public Broadcasting Service, The American Library Association, and the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics.

Learning Two Languages: Questions Parents Ask

The following guide and websites were created by PBS

<http://www.pbs.org/parents/readinglanguage/articles/multifamilies/main.html>

Raising multilingual children offers opportunities as well as unique challenges. Parents may ask a range of questions: Should they speak to their child in their native language? How will that affect their child's ability to learn English? If they speak to their child in English, will he lose his native language? And what happens when parents speak to their child in two languages?

This update will answer many of these questions, while providing tips for what parents can do support their children's language and literacy development at home.

Talking With Children

Is it OK to speak to my child in my native language?

Talking to your child regularly lays the foundation for her language and literacy development. If you are most comfortable with your native language, you will be better able to communicate your feelings and ideas in that language. You can use words to label objects and describe what is happening as a way of teaching new words. You can recite rhymes and poems to develop her awareness of sounds. You can take turns talking about the day, things she notices, and books that you read together. By talking together, you teach your child about the purpose of language, while helping her express her feelings and ideas. And by speaking to your child in your native language, you also teach her about her culture and her identity.

But will speaking to my child in my native language make it harder for him to learn English when he goes to school?

Before children start school, they may be exposed to English on TV, in the playground, and in the print they see on cereal boxes and street signs. Children will learn a lot about English from the environment around them. If your child has also had some formal exposure to English, such as going to a playgroup in which English is the primary language spoken, then school can provide additional opportunities for him to learn the language. Children and teachers alike can serve as models, helping your child communicate what he knows and can do. You may even be surprised by how quickly he picks up the language as he plays and learns alongside other English-speaking children. If your child has had no formal exposure to English, he will use what he knows about his native language to learn English—which will be a major task. Talk with your child's teacher about your goals for your child, as well as any concerns you have.

My husband speaks to our daughter in English. I want to speak to her in my native language. Won't she get confused?

Learning even just one language is a complex process. But young children have the potential to learn more than one language. Again, what is most important is that you talk with your child in the language with which you are most comfortable, so you can have

the types of conversations that promote your child's thinking and language development. It is also important to be a good language model and not mix up languages. That is, when talking with your child in English, don't mix in phrases and sentences from your native language. However, don't be surprised if your child uses words from both languages in one sentence. This is not a sign of confusion, but her current way of communicating what she wants to say.

If we only speak to our child in English, will he lose his ability to speak in native language?

Yes. You will therefore need to decide if you want your child to maintain his skills in your native language. Consider your long-term goals. If you and your family will not return to your home country, maintaining the native language may not be a priority. Also consider your family situation. If extended family members don't speak English, it will be important for your child to maintain his native language so he can communicate with people closest to him. Also consider how your child might feel about losing his native language and a sense of his cultural identity when he gets older.

My child insists on talking to me in English. How can I help her maintain her native language?

It requires time, persistence, and creativity. Some parents speak to their child only in their native language, even if their child responds in English. Other parents send their children to afterschool programs to learn more about their native language. You can also create routines to help your child maintain her native language—from outings with family members to watching movies and reading books in your native language.

My child is learning English as a second language. What should I do if he makes mistakes?

Avoid correcting your child or you might discourage him. A good way to help your child learn the "right" way to say something is to affirm what he says, using the correct pronunciation, sentence structure, or grammar. For example, if your child says, "The mail comed," you might say, "You're right. The mail came. Let's see if we got a letter from Grandma."

The following reading resources were prepared by PBS

<http://www.pbs.org/parents/readinglanguage/articles/multifamilies/resources.html>

Two or More Languages in Early Childhood: Some General Points and Practical Recommendations

(<http://www.cal.org/resources/digest/earlychild.html>)

This ERIC Digest discusses how learning two languages affects children's reading ability and provides recommendations for raising bilingual children. This article is available online.

Center for Applied Linguistics

(www.cal.org)

This non-profit organization's FIRST STEPS program offers a range of information and materials for parents related to second language learning.

ERIC Clearinghouse on Languages and Linguistics

(<http://www.cal.org/resources/archive/eric/index.html>)

This organization offers books, Web sites, and Listservs about second language learning.

National Clearinghouse for English Language Acquisition and Language Instruction Educational Programs

(<http://www.ncela.gwu.edu/>)

This national organization offers helpful language and education links for bilingual parents, including Web sites, print materials, and parent networks.

The following reading websites are only in Spanish, they were provided by the American Library Association

<http://www.ala.org/gwstemplate.cfm?section=greatwebsites&template=/cfapps/gws/displaysection.cfm&sec=20>

Mundo Latino: Rinconcito.

<http://www.mundolatino.org/rinconcito/>

Colorear, cuentos, hablar y Galería de los chiquititos.

Vistas del Sistema Solar.

<http://www.solarviews.com/span/homepage.htm>

Vistas del Sistema Solar ha sido creado como una gira educativa por el sistema solar. Contiene imágenes e información acerca del Sol, planetas, lunas, asteroides, cometas, y meteoroides encontrados en el sistema solar.

The following literacy resources were compiled by the Colorin Colorado website.

<http://www.colorincolorado.org/resources/>

For parents

Family Guide from Reading Rockets (PDF file)

http://www.readingrockets.org/pdf/family_guide.pdf

Latino Families: Getting Involved in Your Children's Education

<http://www.ed.gov/offices/OERI/ECL/digests/99april.html>

You and Your Child's School

<http://www.4children.org/news/1100sche.htm>

Starting Kindergarten? Help Make It a Good Experience!

<http://www.illinoisearlylearning.org/tipsheets/startingkinder.htm>

Helping Your Child

<http://www.ed.gov/parents/academic/help/hyc.html>

Articles in Spanish from the U.S. Department of Education

<http://www.ed.gov/espanol/publicaciones/es/edpubs.html>

LD OnLine Information in Spanish

<http://www.ldonline.org/spanish/index.html>

National Information Center for Children and Youth with Disabilities

<http://www.nichcy.org/index.html>

For educators

Reading Rockets

<http://www.readingrockets.org/>

A comprehensive Web site that's updated daily with news, information, and resources about reading for parents and educators. Reading Rockets is the creator of the Colorín Colorado site.

Tell Me a Story: Bilingual Library Programs for Children and Families

<http://www.tsl.state.tx.us/ld/pubs/bilingual/index.html>

School-Home Reading Kit

<http://www.ed.gov/pubs/CompactforReading/tablek.html>

This site has handouts, in both Spanish and English, to send home to parents. Use the drop-down menus to choose a reading skill and then a handout.

Schools That Welcome Parents

<http://www.4children.org/news/101sche.htm>

Reading and English Language Learners

<http://www.readingrockets.org/article.php?ID=409>

Recommendations for instruction of English language learners within each of the Reading First components.

Help! They Don't Speak English Starter Kit for Primary Teachers

<http://escort.org/?q=node/149>

U.S. Public Library Websites with Information in Spanish

<http://www.reforma.org/spanishwebsites.htm>

Staff Library Guide to Assist the Spanish-Speaking Patron

<http://www.sol-plus.net/plus/survspa/intro.htm>

ERIC Clearinghouse on Elementary and Early Childhood Education, Spanish Digests

<http://ceep.crc.uiuc.edu/eeearchive/digests/spanish.html>

El día de los niños: Children's Day/Book Day

<http://www.colorincolorado.org/day.html>

The following math links were compiled by The Math Forum

<http://mathforum.org/teachers/spanish/>

El Paraíso de las Matemáticas

<http://www.matematicas.net/>

Apuntes, ejercicios, exámenes, enlaces, diccionario, etc.

Juegos de ingenio / Problems and Puzzles

<http://mathforum.org/teachers/spanish/problems.html>

Brainteasers, games, and competitions.

Lecciones y actividades / Lessons and activities

<http://mathforum.org/teachers/spanish/lessons.html>

Lesson plans and other classroom materials.

Olimpiadas Matemáticas

<http://mathforum.org/teachers/spanish/olimpiadas.html>

Annual international math competitions.

Articles and Publications

<http://mathforum.org/teachers/spanish/pubs.html>

Includes Spanish-language math newsletters.

Organization of Ibero-American States for Education, Science, and Culture

Organización de Estados Iberoamericanos para la Educación, la Ciencia y la Cultura.

At Home with Math/Diez Actividades Cotidianas para Padres y Niños - TERC, Inc, and Ceridian Corporation

<http://athomewithmath.terc.edu/>

Ten activities designed to engage children in arithmetic, estimation, measurement, problem-solving, and other important math skills in the context of ordinary life at home. These activities are designed for children ages 5-11 and their parents.

Bilingual Mathematics Dictionary / Diccionario Bilingüe de Matemáticas - Norman Koch and Denise Meeks

<http://nw.pima.edu/dmeeks/spandict/>

An alphabetical list of terms in English with their corresponding Spanish translations, from abacus (el ábaco) to zone (la zona). The purpose of this glossary of math terms is to make readily available in one convenient document a list of terms.

The following websites were compiled by The Eisenhower National Clearinghouse for Mathematics and Science Education (ENC)

<http://www.goenc.com/>

Let's count : a fun, colorful set of counting activities

<http://math.rice.edu/~lanius/counting/>

Take your youngest students to this site for counting practice in both English and Spanish. The site uses symbols and names of numbers in several simple activities where students answer questions such as How many, What comes next, and Which is more? Sets of objects including cars and robots are used for counting and simple addition. Students can think or say their answer and check their thinking with a pull-down menu.

InTime : integrating new technologies into the methods of education

<http://www.intime.uni.edu/>

This Internet site offers a collection of online video vignettes that demonstrate how preK-12 teachers are integrating technology into their classroom lessons. Videos span all grade levels and subject areas and are

Figure this: math challenges for families

<http://www.figurethis.org/espanol.htm>

Helping families enjoy mathematics outside school through a series of fun and engaging, high-quality challenges website launched by the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics.

INTERNET RESOURCES FOR LITERACY PROGRESS

The following examples of resources to improve literacy have been selected by the DePaul University Center for Urban Education for the Chicago Public Schools Parent Community Partnership Program. These links include reading guides, activities, learning games and interactive reading resource websites featuring non-fiction, fiction, poetry and Spanish language texts. Some have been designed specifically for parents. Sources include nationally recognized organizations such as the National Education Association, the International Reading Association, Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory, National Council of Teachers of English, and the US Department of Education.

Examples of online literacy resources recommended by NCTE and IRA

The following pages contain links for teachers and parents to use as resources. These sites were recommended by the International Reading Association (IRA) and The National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE).

Between the Lions

<http://pbskids.org/lions/index.html>

This website is designed for parents and kids to surf together. Stories from the popular PBS show are posted online with links to associated games.

Book Adventure

<http://www.bookadventure.com/>

Book Adventure is a free reading motivation program for children in grades K-8. Children create their own booklists from recommended titles, take multiple choice quizzes on the books they've read offline, and earn points and prizes for their literary successes.

Carol Hurst's Children's Literature Site

<http://www.carolhurst.com/index.html>

This site is a collection of reviews of great books for kids, ideas of ways to use books in the classroom, and collections of books and activities about particular subjects, curriculum areas, themes, and professional topics.

The Children's Book Council (CBC)

<http://www.cbcbooks.org>

A cosponsor with IRA of the Children's Choices project, CBC promotes the use and enjoyment of children's trade books and is the official sponsor of Young People's Poetry Week and National Children's Book Week.

Enlighten Me

<http://www.enlightenme.com/enlightenme/pta/>

Created by Verizon Reads and FableVision, this website for children ages 7-12, as well as parents, teachers, and caregivers, features articles, activities, and booklists designed to promote creative thinking and encourage a lifelong love of reading.

International Children's Digital Library (ICDL)

<http://www.icdlbooks.org>

Imagine a world where a comprehensive library of international children's literature is available to all children across the globe. With participants from around the world, this 5-year research project is building an international collection of children's books that reflects both the diversity and quality of children's literature. Currently, the collection includes materials donated from 27 cultures in 15 languages.

Literature Resources

<http://www.about-arts.com/>

About-Arts.com -- A directory of literature-related websites and discussion groups.

Merriam-Webster Online: The Language Center

<http://www.m-w.com/>

You can access the full text of *Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary*, Tenth Edition and *Collegiate Thesaurus*. Site links take you to word games, the featured "Word of the Day", and scripts of National Public Radio's popular daily program "Word for the Wise."

The Miss Rumphius Award

http://www.reading.org/resources/community/links_rumphius_info.html

The Miss Rumphius Award is presented by members of the RTEACHER mailing list (listserv) to educators who develop and share exceptional Internet resources for literacy and learning. An annotated list of links to award-winning websites is provided.

National Education Association (NEA)

<http://www.nea.org/>

NEA advances the cause of public education. Their website has a section for parents about how to get involved in and improve their child's education.

Reading Is Fundamental (RIF)

<http://www.rif.org/>

RIF develops and delivers children's and family literacy programs that help prepare young children for reading and motivate school-age children to read. Through a national network of teachers, parents, and volunteers, RIF programs provide books and other essential literacy resources to children, at no cost to them or their families.

Reading Rockets

<http://www.readingrockets.org>

A project of WETA, the public broadcasting station in Washington, DC, this site provides detailed information about learning to read and strategies for supporting struggling readers at home, at school, and in the community. It offers news, practical information, expert advice, and resources for parents, teachers, tutors, child care providers, and policymakers.

Reading Tips for Spanish-Speaking Parents

<http://www.colorincolorado.org/>

Reading Rockets, a multimedia initiative of PBS station WETA, created ¡Colorín Colorado! , the first major Web site specifically for Spanish-speaking parents to help their children learn to read. Featuring beautiful illustrations from Caldecott Award-winning illustrator David Diaz and entertaining video clips of celebrities such as the late Celia Cruz, Miguel Varoni and author Pat Mora, the site also includes downloadable resources for teachers and librarians to distribute to parents in their own communities.

RIF Reading Planet

<http://www.rifreadingplanet.org/rif/>

RIF Reading Planet is a place where kids and families come together to explore the world of books. Grown-ups can browse through a universe of activities and ideas for motivating kids to read. Kids can post reviews of favorite books and participate in interactive games and activities.

Word Central

<http://www.wordcentral.com/>

Merriam-Webster's site just for kids features the "Daily Buzz Word", spelling bee quizzes, student dictionaries, and "Build Your Own Dictionary."

Young Authors' Workshop

<http://www.planet.eon.net/%7Ebplaroach/Teacher.html>

Links to websites on all aspects of the writing process for kids, including places to publish their writing