

Wondering About ...

# Dual Language Learners

Current research supports the idea that children benefit from being bilingual and learning the family's home language. Cognitive development, self-esteem, family ties and social interactions are all enhanced when children learn to speak their home language. Below are resources to support families as they raise dual language children.

## Heartland Equity and Inclusion Project (HEIP)

[www.heartland.edu/heip](http://www.heartland.edu/heip)

**The Heartland Equity and Inclusion Project is designed to ensure early childhood professionals have the knowledge and skills required to support the diverse development and learning needs of young children and their families in high-quality, inclusive classroom communities. These resource pages provide a tool for teachers to use to support families faced with questions about early childhood.**

**Helping Your Child Learn in Two Languages.** Illinois Early Learning Project. (2014).

<http://illinoisearlylearning.org/tipsheets/bilingual.htm>

This tip sheet available in 7 languages provides information on how to support a young child learn two languages. Additional web resources are also listed on this site.

**Spanish Practice Guides to Use with Parents.** Center for Early Literacy Learning.

[http://www.earlyliteracylearning.org/pgparents\\_span.php](http://www.earlyliteracylearning.org/pgparents_span.php)

These user-friendly handouts (written in Spanish) provide parents ideas to support literacy in their infant, toddler and preschooler.

**Colorin Colorado!** (2011).

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

This website provides a variety of materials in English and Spanish to help children, especially those learning English as a second language, become good readers and succeed in school. Materials suggesting ways to strengthen partnerships with the teachers are also provided. The "Books and Authors" link provides lists of recommended books to read with children.

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