

Meaningful Interactions for Dual Language Learners



Use meaningful environments

(PCF, Vol. 1)

- Allow for wait time.
- Create small groups for reading.
- Combine English words with body gestures.
- Allow for children's voluntary participation.
- Provide space for children to interact in small groups.
- Provide linguistically and culturally appropriate materials (stories).

Use meaningful stories

(NAEYC, *Young Children*, March 2013)

- Use traditional stories.
- Create personal stories.
- Use puppets.
- Create story spin-offs.
- Create personas.
- Invite guest readers.
- Act out rhymes.
- Create story murals.
- Use attributes charts.

Use meaningful family partnerships

(PCF, Vol. 1)

- Ask a family member to share appropriate social conventions for the child's language and culture.
- Invite parents and other family members of preschool English learners to share some of their cultural practices.
- Invite families to record a native song or story in their home language and make this available in the classroom.

+ Use meaningful interactions to support dual language learners' listening and speaking skills.



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Children acquire a second language more easily when experiences are meaningful, engaging, playful, and useful.

NAEYC, *Young Children*, March 2013