



## Dual Language Learners with Disabilities: Supporting Young Children in the Classroom

Est. Time: 30 Minutes

### Objective

Understand the importance of supporting a child's development in his or her home language as well as in English.

### DEC Recommended Practices

This Activity addresses the DEC Recommended Practices (DEC-RP) topic areas outlined below:

#### Family

**F1.** Practitioners build trusting and respectful partnerships with the family through interactions that are sensitive and responsive to cultural, linguistic, and socio-economic diversity.

**F8.** Practitioners provide the family of a young child who has or is at risk for developmental delay/disability, and who is a dual language learner, with information about the benefits of learning in multiple languages for the child's growth and development.

#### Environment

**E1.** Practitioners provide services and supports in natural and inclusive environments during daily routines and activities to promote the child's access to and participation in learning experiences.

**E3.** Practitioners work with the family and other adults to modify and adapt the physical, social, and temporal environments to promote each child's access to and participation in learning experiences.

### Overview

Chances are you will have many children who are dual language learners (DLLs) in your classroom. Because some of these DLLs will have a developmental delay or disability, teachers need to be prepared to provide quality education for this growing population. For teachers of dual language learners with disabilities, the challenges involve not only preparing the environment but also interacting and accurately assessing those children's development and learning.



The contents of this resource were developed under a grant from the U.S. Department of Education, #H325E120002. However, those contents do not necessarily represent the policy of the U.S. Department of Education, and you should not assume endorsement by the Federal Government. Project Officers, Sarah Allen and Tracie Dickson.



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### Activity

The DEC Recommended Practices (DEC-RP) note the importance and benefits of maintaining children's home language as they learn English as a way to promote the children's learning in both. Click either the URL or the image below to visit a Webpage where you can watch the video Home Language for Success in School and Life. After you have done so, answer the questions that follow.

<http://iris.peabody.vanderbilt.edu/?p=109894>



*Credit: National Center on Cultural and Linguistic Responsiveness (2015). Washington, DC: Office of Head Start.*

### Questions/Discussion Topics

1. Why is it important to maintain young children's home language?
2. What can teachers and programs working with young dual language learners do to promote the children's home language?