

Supporting CLD Students

LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT

Children who speak multiple languages build neural connections quickly. It's a myth that being bilingual causes confusion or delays. There is a strong correlation between bilingualism and positive academic performance.” (Bialystok, 2011), (Nguyen et al., 2023).

Encourage multilingual families to speak to their child in the language(s) in which they feel the most comfortable.



Model Language!

Children need to hear new words many times before they begin to use them, so repeat words and phrases frequently.

Modeling is one of the best ways to teach children correct grammar and pronunciation. If a child communicates with sounds or gestures or makes a mistake with a word or grammar, teach them.

Ask them to repeat the correct form after you (“Say___”).

Recasts (“That is a car”) and **expansions** (“That red car is a fast!”) are great strategies to build language skills.



Cross-linguistic Transfer

Cross-linguistic transfer happens when a student applies the language skills from their first language to their second language.

Educators can support this transfer with **metalinguistic awareness strategies**, e.g., teaching cognates and exploring similarities and differences in sounds, word formation, syntax, grammar, and language use between English and their home language (Beeman & Urow, 2013).

The more similar languages are structurally and in vocabulary, the more language transference is possible.



Teacher Tips:

- Teach syntax explicitly.
- Explain the meaning of figurative language.
- Include culturally authentic books for read alouds.