

SUGGESTIONS FOR ENRICHING THE ENVIRONMENT

- Set up the environment to help children learn a new language. In the listening center provide books in other languages on CD or computer apps.
- Provide CDs and other media that have simple songs and phrases in multiple languages. These are available online or in teacher supply stores.
- Ask volunteers, parents, or older children to record stories for the children to listen to, including the *home languages* of the children.
- Label objects around the room in both English and another language, such as Spanish or Lakota. Make labels with the children large enough to be easily read, adding one word a week.
- Add books to the library area that are written in two languages. Read books like *Goodnight Moon*, which is available in English and Spanish. This can help children to see the connection between two languages.
- Provide books that reflect the languages and cultures of the children in the group.



EFFECTIVE STRATEGIES TO SUPPORT CHILDREN'S DEVELOPMENT AND LEARNING

- Invite parents and members of the community who speak other languages to come in and teach children a simple song and a few greetings or special words.
- Invite families to cook traditional dishes with the children and teach them the names of the foods they are preparing. Be culturally sensitive to parents; invite, but do not push them to come until they feel comfortable. Instead work on building a relationship over time.
- Teach children simple greetings, such as “Hola” (hello in Spanish) or “Hua” (hello in Lakota). Use this greeting with the children in the morning. Encourage them to greet those around them in the same way.
- Introduce simple greetings in other languages that are represented in the program or when learning about other *cultures* in the world, include simple greetings in those languages.
- Sing simple songs in other languages to help children hear sounds of other languages such as *Frere Jacques*.
- Use motions to go along with songs to help children learn new words.
- Teach colors and numbers in other languages.