

Building Skills in Two Languages

[Music]

All: Pop!

Narrator: Do you have children in your classroom who are learning multiple languages? Chances are, yes, since dual language learners are the fastest growing child population in the United States today.

Teacher: So we're going to sing about the rabbit in Yup'ik.

All: The rabbit goes a-hopping.

Narrator: The children you are teaching may speak Spanish, Mandarin, Urdu, Somali, Russian, or all of those, and you are likely wondering: How can I best support their development and prepare them for school? This module will cover fundamental teaching practices to support language and learning for young dual language learners.

Teacher: Now let's try saying it in Arabic.

[All say "good morning" in Arabic]

[Teacher repeats in Arabic]

Teacher: We already said good morning in Spanish, but we'll try it again. Let's say it in Spanish. [All say "good morning" in Spanish]

Narrator: The first practice is to encourage children and families to continue to speak their home languages. The more children speak in their home languages, the more solid a foundation they have for learning new words and concepts in any language. The second is to have frequent conversations with children that are rich and meaningful. It is especially important for children who are learning more than one language to have clear language models and conversations with lots of exchanges.

Teacher: You drink it. And what does it do for your body?

Child: Go down.

Teacher: It goes down. What does it do for your muscles?

Teacher: It gives you...

Child: Strong muscles.

Teacher: Strong...muscles.

Narrator: Finally, you can introduce new vocabulary in ways that children learning more than one language can understand. Learning multiple languages is a gift. Children who are dual language learners

are building cognitive skills and active and flexible brains. And you, as their teacher, can play a big part in their language and skill development.

Narrator: To find out more about EarlyEdU courses, see our website at www.EarlyEdUAlliance.org.