Dual Language 101

Dual Language Education of New Mexico
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Dual Language 101

- Presentation based on *The Two-Way Immersion Toolkit* (Center for Applied Linguistics, 2005)
  - Center for Applied Linguistics and The Education Alliance at Brown University (2005)
  - www.alliancebrown.edu/pubs/twi

- Agenda
  - Basics
  - Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
Dual Language 101

- What is a dual language program?
  - Definition
  - Common Goals
  - Non-negotiable Components
  - Different types of DL programs based on student population
Dual Language Programs.....

- Use two languages in two ways
  - Two languages are used for instruction
  - Two groups of students are involved
    - Native English speakers
    - Native speaker of Spanish, Navajo, Zuni or other languages
Dual Language Program Goals

- All students will.....
  - Be at or above grade level.
  - Develop high levels of proficiency in their first language.
  - Develop high levels of proficiency in a second language.
  - Demonstrate positive cross-cultural attitudes and behaviors.
Dual Language Programs

- Non-negotiable components
  - A minimum of 50% to a maximum of 90% of the daily instruction in the "target" language (e.g. Spanish, Navajo, Zuni, etc)
  - Strict separation of languages for instruction (no translation)
  - K – 12th grade commitment
    - Minimum K-5 if your district does not have secondary programs yet
Language Environment

Outside of School & Home

Spanish speaking home

50:50 Dual Language Classroom

English speaking home

Blue = English
White = Spanish
Types of Dual Language Programs Based on Student Population

- Developmental One-Way
  - Mostly native Spanish speaking students (or other target languages like Zuni or Navajo)
- Two-Way Immersion
  - Balanced numbers of students who are native English speakers and native Spanish (or other target languages like Zuni or Navajo)
- Heritage Language One-Way
  - Native English speakers from the same cultural background (ancestors spoke the target language)
Dual Language Programs

- Developmental
- Two-Way Immersion
- Heritage Language
- Modified Instruction
Examples of Modified Instruction

What can we do when we don’t understand?
- Observe who is speaking
- Listen
- Ask a friend or the teacher
- Look for examples

Why should we learn Spanish?
- To talk to people who only speak Spanish or bilingual
- Talk to friends’ family
- Good to know a lot of languages
- Get a good job – that pays well
- Help people

My name is Ms. Ruth. I’m from Guadalajara, Jalisco. I speak Spanish and English. I’m in 5th grade.

¿Qué hora es?
Es la ____.
Son las _____.

¿Cuándo tenemos desayuno?
Tenemos ____ a las _____.

almuerzo
educación física
recreo
la clase de español
Activity: What are the benefits to being bilingual?

- Record each different reason on a Post-It Note.
- Share your reasons with others in your group.
- Sort all of your groups reasons into categories with similar ideas.
- Develop a title for each category.
- Be ready to share with the whole group.
Frequently Asked Questions

- What advantages are there for my child in a DL program?
  - Students develop high academic achievement in reading, writing & oral proficiency in two languages.
    - Allows them to see their first language in a comparative perspective, which helps them analyze and refine their language use.
  - Students develop positive attitudes toward themselves as learners.
Advantages for Native English Speakers

- Students achieve at the same or higher levels in English compared to their English-only speaking peers in English-only classrooms.
- Students develop very positive attitudes about students of other language and cultural backgrounds.

AND/OR

- Students develop very positive attitudes about their heritage language and cultural background.
Advantages for Native Spanish Speakers

- Students achieve at the same or higher levels in **English** than their peers enrolled in other programs.

- Increased sense of pride and self-esteem.
  - School – models of proficiency in Spanish
  - Home – Students develop very positive attitudes about their heritage language and cultural background and are able to continue communicating w/family
How do students in DL programs compare academically to students in other types of education programs?

- Both groups scored at or well above grade level in both languages by middle school.
- Native English speakers outscored their English-only peers in English-only classrooms.
- Native Spanish speakers scored significantly higher than their English language learning peers who had studied in other kinds of programs.
Frequently Asked Questions

- When do students perform at grade level on standardized achievement tests, academic content, and in both reading and writing in their first and second languages?
  - Native English
    - In English - when they receive formal reading instruction in English
    - In Spanish – 3rd grade through middle school
  - Native Spanish
    - In Spanish – 2nd grade
    - In English – 3rd grade through middle school
Frequently Asked Questions

- What are the characteristics of students who are successful in DL programs?
  - Enjoy learning new things
  - Have parents who strongly support the program
  - Realizes that learning in two languages can be challenging at times
    - Persistent
    - Risk-taker
  - No particular type of student fails to flourish in DL programs!
Frequently Asked Questions

- What kind of homework support can the program provide?
  - Ongoing communication with parents in home language
  - Class buddy systems
  - After-school homework club
  - Homework hotline
Frequently Asked Questions

- What should a DL program do to promote home-school connections?
  - All communication in both languages
    - Back-to-back, side-by-side
  - Meetings to educate parents on DL related topics
  - Offer ESL and SSL classes
    - Bring two groups together often
  - Recognize skills & strengths of DL families as a resource
Frequently Asked Questions

- What questions or information do I have the right to ask for?
  - My student’s achievements, tests, and records
  - Homework and time to understand and support my child with this information
  - The translation of information
Activity: What can I do as a parent to participate and support my child at home, at school, and in my community?

- **3 Minute Silent Brainstorm Carousel**
  - Each group member has a different colored marker.
  - Record your answer to the question on the chart paper and then pass it on to the next person.
    - If you can’t think of anything just pass it on.
  - Be ready to report to the whole group.
FAQ: What can I do as a parent to participate and support my child at home?

Especially if I don’t know the language...

- Right environment & tools
  - Quiet space, enough time, dictionaries in both languages
- Support their children’s language and literacy development in two languages
  - Ask questions about the homework, in the language spoken at home
  - Read books, write, and watch movies in the second language
  - Attend cultural festivals
  - Provide opportunities for authentic language exchanges
How can I help my child maintain both languages?

- Form friendships that would provide opportunities for visits and correspondence in both languages
- Make time each day to read and write in both languages
- Visit places
FAQ: What can I do as a parent to participate and support my school & community?

- Volunteer in the classroom
- Share aspects of home language & culture
- Attend parent education workshops
- Participate in DL family social gatherings
- Co-present at conferences with teachers
- Contribute to school newsletter
- Serve as chaperone for class trips
- Assist with on-going recruitment
- Keep in touch w/other dual language parents about program developments
Frequently Asked Question

- How can I advocate for DL programs?
  - Organize a *Parent-to-Parent Information Day*
  - Personal testimony
  - Guided tours by parents
  - Join advisory committees
  - Testimonials at public board meetings
  - Appointments with district administrators
  - Writing letters to the editor
Frequently Asked Questions

- What resources exist for parents of DL students?
  - Books
  - Videos
  - Websites
  - Organizations
  - Conferences