

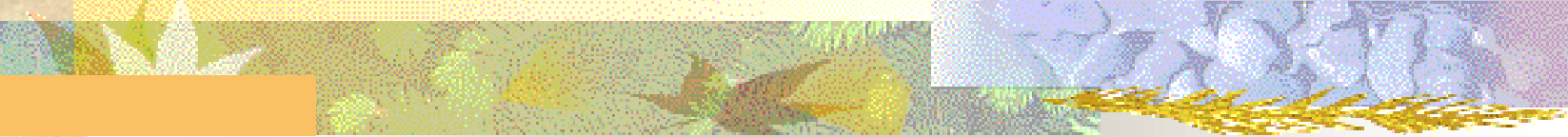
Working with Linguistically Diverse Young Children and their Families

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ZERO TO THREE



Session Overview

- Explore the link between culture, language and development
- Learn the developmental stages of second language acquisition and potential risk factors.
- Reflect on how our own beliefs about second language acquisition affect our work.



Language is learned in the
context of nurturing
relationships!



Cultural Connections

Young children receive and convey meaning within the contexts of family and community.



Language Development

- Infants are “preprogrammed” to learn language
 - Overload with multiple languages may result in difficulty associating which sounds belong to which language.



Language Development & Culture

- 1-3 months—learn their cultural language and patterns of language exchange
- Around 16 months—language explosion
 - Rooted in their family and culture



The Continuum of Bilingualism



Non-English
home and
community

Primarily
exposed to
English and
minimally to
home language



Stages of Second Language Acquisition

- Home language use period in the new language
- Telegraphic and formulaic language
- Productive use of the new language



Strategies

- Use lots of nonverbal communication
- Keep messages simple
- Talk about the here and now
- Emphasize important words in a sentence
- Combine gestures with talk
- Repeat certain key words in a sentence



Factors that Affect Individual Progress

- Motivation
- Exposure
- Age
- Temperament



Potential Risks for Later Delays

- Lack of continuity in language development
- Smaller vocabulary size in each language
- Limited experiences in both languages



Struggle

- Tension between preserving the home language and culture and controlling the growing influence of the English language and American culture.



Lasting Implications

- A liaison between home and host culture
- Finding where you fit in
- Finding self-acceptance
- Experiences of racism and discrimination
- Establishing identity



Messages Children Receive

- How we view and support children's home language provides them messages about self and culture.
- **Danger:** Non-English culture is irrelevant and an impediment to success in school and later life.



Paired Discussion

Reflecting on Your Beliefs

- What are your beliefs about second language acquisition?
 - How important is it that young children learn English?
 - What are the best ways for young children to learn English?



Key Points to Remember

- Language is more than just the written verbal and non-verbal, it is the communication of culture and means for cultural competence.
- Language is not taught—it is learned within the context of nurturing relationships.



Key Points to Remember

- Retention of home language affects a child's identity and the sense of well-being of the entire family.
- Be cognizant of your own biases and language experiences.