



DUAL LANGUAGE LEARNING

WHAT IS DIFFERENT?

For the first time, the requirements acknowledge the importance of maintaining a child's home language while learning a new one. Organizations now have a responsibility to provide an environment that supports dual language learning.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

This requirement acknowledges that all languages are important. It encourages literacy and supports the development of a second language. It helps children to stay connected to their culture and family, and shows parents that their home language is valued. It also provides a way for educators to demonstrate their openness to learning a few words or phrases in a child's language. When children recognize the script or sound of their first language, it can increase their comfort in your program.

IMPLEMENTATION

Consider how your CNC Staff are currently using multiple languages in their day-to-day interactions with parents and children.

Ask parents for their help with suggestions for using their languages in your program. They can be a great resource for creating a multilingual/cultural collection. Meet with your staff and discuss best practices and strategize ways to increase the presence of multiple languages in your program. A few suggestions to consider:

- Add posters or alphabets in various languages.
- Use music from various cultures.
- Borrow books in different languages from your local library.

Focus on language during cultural and religious celebrations. Use celebrations as opportunities to learn about and share the families' cultures. (e.g. Chinese New Year), as well as Canadian culture (e.g., Family Day, Canada Day). These celebrations provide children with opportunities for language learning.



SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

- Second Language Learning and Keeping the Child's First Language – workshop handouts available online– Julie Dotsch
- Creating a Language-Rich Environment – Julie Dotsch Expert Corner

REQUIREMENTS

3-4 LANGUAGE

- a. The CNC environment and activities reflect the importance of dual language learning and to the extent possible, support home language maintenance while helping a child acquire a new language.