

CCE School Climate Committee Parent Engagement Night

Supporting Your Child Through Spanish Immersion

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From parent and facilitator dialogue, many wonderful ideas were generated to support children in and through their Spanish Immersion education.

WHAT PARENTS CAN DO

To support your child in general:

- Recognize that participating in this program is like a “3-year trust fall,” and it takes time for children to demonstrate all that they are learning.
- Seek out other parents who have “been there” for advice.
- Maintain a positive attitude towards the program in front of your child and provide encouraging words. Focus on a “growth mindset.” Mistakes show you are trying.
- Find ways to manage your own anxiety.
- Keep in regular contact with your child’s classroom teacher, and if you have concerns bring them forward.
- There is value in children seeing their parents struggle and not know something. Look at the challenging times as an opportunity to learn together.
- Read in the language(s) you speak at home. The important thing is showing children that learning is fun!
- Ask your child's teacher what other handy tips they have.
- Learn more about bilingual education:
 - National Association for Bilingual Education <http://nabe.org/>
 - California Association for Bilingual Education <http://www.gocabe.org/>
 - Center for Applied Linguistics <http://www.cal.org/>

To support Spanish Language Development:

- Encourage exposure, contact, and play in Spanish.
- Have your child read, read, read in Spanish (out loud is important).
- Need book recommendations? Ask a Librarian at the Yolo County Library or CCE School Library.
- Listen to Spanish language music, audio books, radio, etc.
- Watch Spanish language movies / TV, turn on Spanish captions or change language to Spanish on English media. Choose programs of interest to your child (their favorite shows, sports, hobbies...). Check Netflix, YouTube, Univision, and other media sources for Spanish Language programming.

- Participate in Summer reading (Círculo Program) to maintain and build upon reading skills in Primary grades.
- Model speaking Spanish, even if it's just 'hola' and 'buenos dias' to teachers, other parents, and children.
- Hire a Spanish speaking college student to interact with your child in Spanish on a regular basis. This can be with individual children or in small groups.
- Dine at a Mexican restaurant and have your child order for the family in Spanish. Talk to them ahead of time about it so they feel prepared.
- Travel to places, near and far, where your child can hear Spanish being spoken and can practice their Spanish listening and speaking. Seeds of Learning is a long-running program that sends Davis youth and families to Nicaragua, and this is something to consider for Junior High School.
- Share books in Spanish with other families, from home or from the Book Fair
- Attend bilingual story time (Ahora de cuentas) at Yolo County Library locations (check Davis, South Davis, Woodland, Winters, Esparto, and West Sacramento locations for variety of times).

To encourage Cultural Development and Community Engagement:

- Attend community building events both at school and in the broader area to get to know other families. Build social connections for your child and broaden their cultural understanding.
- Schedule play dates amongst kids with different home languages to encourage friendships and language development.
- Get to know other parents through school involvement and work on projects and committees. Provide each other support by attending school meetings together and / or having kids play together while parents are in meetings. Build community and support your child's school at the same time!
- Attend English Learner Advisory Council (ELAC) meetings. These meetings are open to all, not just parents of English learners.
- Set up whole class (e.g., all 2nd grade) play dates where the entire class and families can build connections

For homework help:

- Become familiar with key words in Spanish to help your child with their homework.
- Use Google translate for words you or your child may not know, recognizing that accuracy and grammar may not be perfect. This is modeling "looking it up" for your child.
- Math homework sheets are available in both Spanish and English from publisher's web site. Ask your classroom teacher for access info. If you are an English speaker and your child needs support when doing their homework, it can be helpful to review the math lessons and homework sheets online in your primary language to familiarize yourself with the content.

WHAT CCE STAFF / PARENT LEADERSHIP GROUPS CAN DO

- Create a Google doc where parents and teachers can recommend Spanish language media – books, movies, television, music – organized by grade level
- Add books / resources / articles about bilingual education to CCE Parent Resource Library. Ask parents for suggestions (parents value recommendations from fellow parents).
- Provide access to Parent Resource Library for working parents and/or make resources available at CDC.
- Set up Adult Book Buddies
- Set up Parent-to-Parent mentoring program for support (esp. 2nd grade parents mentoring 1st grade parents, and families new and returning to CCE)
- Teachers provide list of “key words” in Spanish with English translations to help English speaking parents understand homework and assignments.
 - Math Specialist create Spanish / English math terms, posted on web site, for parents.
- Regular speakers or programs on topics of interest to parents
- Additional grade-level guidance programs for parents
- Have a few parents at each grade-level meeting to share their experience and answer questions. It is reassuring and helpful to have both staff and parents present for these meetings.
- Return of Friday coffee with Principal or other Friday morning programming. Topic is key to drawing interest from parents.
- Parent Education on Growth Mindset, Anxiety, and other topics and issues of general interest to parents or that help parents understand and benefit from teachers’ and community expertise.
- Provide information about Junior High programs, especially Spanish Immersion, to parents of younger students, so they have some idea about what the Spanish options are for Junior High School and what their child can work toward. Provide info about Immersion at Emerson and Bilingual Certification at graduation earlier (4th/5th grade).
- Consider what CCE and MME can learn from each other about supporting students in language immersion. For example, CCE: parent education programs by grade level, MME: Intercambio. Consider where the schools can co-sponsor programs, events, parent education, etc.