



A Beginner's Guide to Teaching for Biliteracy

1. Spanish is a minority language in a majority culture.

Elevating the status of being bilingual contributes to validating cultural identity and celebrates the diversity of languages and cultures.

Bilingual validation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A <u>Benefits of Being Bilingual</u> mind map created by students, their families, and the teacher prominently posted in the classroom.• Regionalisms are valued and accepted; however, the teacher is modeling and teaching both languages explicitly using Formal Spanish and Formal English.
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2. Students use all of the languages in their linguistic repertoire to develop literacy.

Particularly for simultaneous bilinguals, who are developing language in both English and Spanish at the same time, a strategic approach to learning will solidify both languages.

Strategic Language Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• During the allocated time, teacher is to be consistent in either Spanish or English. S/he may model circumlocution, dictionary use, or other strategies that students should use to articulate their thoughts in the other language.• During the allocated time, the teacher is to be consistent in either Spanish or English, even when praising student effort and use of strategies.• During the allocated time, students should use strategies taught by the teacher to articulate their thoughts in that language. They may seek support from other students for clarification and to deepen their understanding, but should make every effort to build upon the language of instruction.• As students develop confidence in their language skills, they begin to clearly articulate the learning in which they are engaged, and they know the protocol for utilizing resources to promote understanding.
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3. Spanish and English are governed by distinct linguistic rules and cultural norms.

Given the interconnectedness between Spanish and English, (30-40% of all words in English have a related word in Spanish) it is advantageous for students to develop their metalinguistic skills, exploring how the languages are different and similar.

Interconnectedness	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The evolution of 3 distinct spaces in the room: a separate space for Spanish, English, and Spanish/English contrastive analysis.• Anchor charts, word walls, and other wall resources which are relevant and timely, are written in blue marker for Spanish and black marker for English.• Contrastive analysis anchor charts and word walls are created together with students during the Bridging, and are posted as a relevant, current resource.
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