

BILINGUALISM F.A.Q.S



Won't learning two languages cause confusion and language delays?

Response:

Children can learn two languages or more at the same time without causing confusion or delay of English skills. There are cognitive, academic, and social benefits to bilingualism.



How can I support bilingual children's home language if I only speak English?

Response:

Provide visuals to supplement understanding, define vocabulary, incorporate children's home language, collaborate with bilingual colleagues/families, offer small-group instruction, and show multiple examples.



Isn't it best for bilingual children to only receive English instruction so they are ready to succeed in school?

Response:

Research shows that children make greater gains when provided with bilingual instruction that supports their development in their two languages. Children with a strong foundation in their home language are better able to learn in English.



Why do I have to assess children in their two languages when they only receive English instruction at school?

Response:

Bilingual children have different experiences in each language. Assessing their two languages provides the most complete picture of what they know. Using home language surveys can help gather information to help interpret assessment results.

