



Sol y Luna Nature School

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About Us

- To help support children's holistic development, we proudly follow a nature-based and anti-bias curriculum that celebrates diversity in all aspects of life.
- Our mission is to develop an eco-literate & empowered child, family and community to address climate change.
- We follow a 50/50 language model, English & Spanish



Language Development

- Knowing two or more languages is a personal, social, professional, and societal asset. There are also many cognitive benefits to being bilingual, such as higher executive functions, improved performance on tasks that call for divergent thinking, pattern recognition and problem solving.
- Children are introduced to Spanish through play, songs, books, dance, poems and storytelling.



Evidence Based Practices

- Findings demonstrate that exemplary teachers hold asset-oriented beliefs about bilingualism and diversity, viewing DLL children and families as knowledgeable resources to the community.
- With these beliefs as a foundation, teachers enact a wide repertoire of practices tailored for DLL children, including: fostering relationships and belonging through embedding home languages and cultural practices in the classroom, emphasizing guided play, co-constructed curriculum, and ongoing observational assessment.

Baker, M. (2018). Playing, Talking, Co-constructing: Exemplary Teaching for Young Dual Language Learners Across Program Types. *Early Childhood Education Journal*, 47(1), 115-130.



Embedding home languages and cultural practices in the classroom

- **Family Story binders**
 - Child's name story, extended family, family recipe, celebrated holidays
- **Self portraits**
 - Importance of learning about self identity
- **Learning units**
- **Cultural representation**
 - **Books**
 - <https://socialjusticebooks.org/booklists/early-childhood/>
 - **Materials**
 - Families can donate culturally relevant items
- **Home visits**
 - Bridging the gap between home and school



Building Meaningful Family Relationships

- Involve families in supporting children's language learning, invite them into the learning process!
- Parent volunteer, learning experience
- Family story binders
 - Portable, can go home and back to school for home-school connections



Total Physical Response (TPR)

Method of teaching language or vocabulary concepts by using physical movement to react to verbal input. The process mimics the way that infants learn their first language, and it reduces student inhibitions and lowers stress. The purpose of TPR is to create a brain link between speech and action to boost language and vocabulary learning.

<https://www.theteachertoolkit.com/index.php/tool/to-tal-physical-response-tpr>





Thank you!

Language and culture cannot be separated. Language is vital to understanding our unique cultural perspectives. Language is a tool that is used to explore and experience our cultures and the perspectives that are embedded in our cultures.