

# BEST WRITING PRACTICES FOR EMERGING BILINGUAL STUDENTS



## 01 CREATE AN INVITING WRITING ENVIRONMENT



- (1) Provide stationary that engages children in writing and are culturally relevant, such as including paper and notebooks that reflect themes and cultures of interest to children.
- (2) Ask families about how adults use writing at home and what materials are used to read and write.
- (3) Post examples of home languages in the classroom.



## 02 SUPPORT MEANINGFUL WRITING PURPOSES

(1) Model multiple purposes of writing

(2) Model and show oral and written language are connected through writing in different orthographies

(3) Model and draw attention to audience when writing


(4) Encourage children to talk about their ideas in their home language. Teachers can support by editing.



"I love fruit! Let's write a note to ask for pineapple for snack."




"Let's write our favorite pets. We use letters to form words in English, like d-o-g to write dog. We can also use a character 犬 to represent dog in Chinese."



"Juan wants to draw a picture and write a note for his abuela in Guatemala. She reads and writes in Spanish. That means Juan should write the note in Spanish."

"It sounds like you want to tell others to keep the bridge you have worked on, so you will finish it tomorrow. We can write a sign of 'save', so no one will touch it."



## 03 VALUE AND SUPPORT DRAWING

- Drawing and writing share similar social, physical, and cognitive processes.
- Young children may use both writing and drawing to create meaning.



- Encourage children to talk about their drawings...this promotes later composing!
- Help children write words as part of the message they want to write.
- Discuss differences between drawn and written parts of children's products.

## 04 SUPPORT PRINT PROCESS

- Simplify tasks to support print awareness, handwriting, and spelling



Stretch word sounds to help children hear sounds: "sad: /s/sssss/-/a/ /d/"



Point out the shape of letters to support handwriting: "Your name begins with 'S'. It is made of a curve from the top that turns as it goes down an another curve at the bottom."

- Encourage children to think critically by using specific questions that prompt them to apply what they have learned.



To help a child to spell "bed", ask: "What sound does 'bed' start with?" You can also ask, "What other sounds do you hear in the word?"

## 05 CONNECT HOME AND SCHOOL LANGUAGES

- Sending writing materials home and inviting families to share their story or message to the class encourages families to engage children in writing at home and use home languages.



- Encourage children to talk about their idea in all languages

"You want to write a story about flowers. What words do you use to describe flowers? What do they mean?"

- Encourage children to explain their home language and writing to other children in class

"I noticed your name has two characters, can you explain to us how to say them?"

- Prompt children to talk about and share writing constructed at home during group times to show you value their family story or message.

