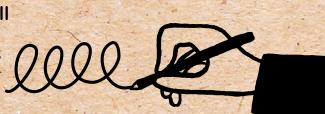




- Writing among emerging bilingual children involves the use of language knowledge in home language (L1) and English (L2), as well as cultural knowledge.
- Despite huge differences in written languages, children show universal and language-specific patterns in writing development.



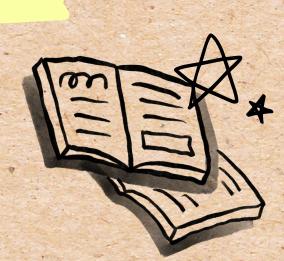
What are in common?

* You will see:

(1) monolingual children and emerging bilingual children develop concept of writing by scribbling before writing letters or characters conventionally;

(2) they understand that written language is different than pictures and it carries meaning;

(3) they understand that scripts are organized linearly. what are different?



Graphic form of written language

English, Arabic, and Amharic letters containing /b/ sound

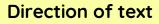




Word spacing

No word space in Chinese

你吃饭了吗? Did you eat?



Arabic: right to left



English: left to right

2,466





Mapping between oral language and written language

- English: one sound has multiple spellings
- Spanish: one sound typically has one possible spelling
- Hebrew: vowels are often omitted.



Emerging bilingual children may:





- use their knowledge of sound-symbol correspondence in L1 to spelling English words. For example, Spanishspeaking children may spell "hug" as "jug" because "j" makes /h/ sound in Spanish.
- struggle to write their name in L1, due to the visualorthographic complexity, such as Chinese characters.
- need explicit instruction on print concepts, such as the direction of text in English and the concept of word spacing.

How to support early writing?

- Value and appreciate students' linguistic resources in all of their languages.
- Adopt instructional practices that support children's early writing development across languages.





For example, create writing environments that:

- alleviate burden of handwriting and allow writers to focus on composing, such as providing stamps or plastic forms;
- include stationary with cultures and themes relevant to children's cultural
- display home language examples.



Research Supported by: Bingham, G. E., Gerde, H. K., Zhang, C., & *Zhang, X. Y. (2022). Supporting the writing development of emergent bilingual children: Universal and language specific approaches. The Reading Teacher, 76(4), 390-399.

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