

Resource Walk: Family Engagement

This activity is designed to support learning about **family engagement** through structured exploration of resources on the [Multilingual Learning Toolkit](#).

This activity could be done on its own or combined with this [lesson plan on supporting family engagement](#).

In this one-hour activity, teachers:

- Learn to navigate the Multilingual Learning Toolkit
- Explore resources related to family engagement
- Share their learning with colleagues

Materials needed:

- Copies of the [Graphic Organizer](#) (see template below)
- Access to devices with Internet access for all participants

Suggested Activity

(10 min) Introduce the Multilingual Learning Toolkit & the Work of Family Engagement

- See [Talking Points](#)

(20 min) Resource Exploration

- Ask teachers to “count off” by letters A through F.
- Teachers should begin exploring the evidence-based strategy area associated with their letter. (E.g., the Bs should begin with “1B: *Talk with families about their language and learning goals for their child. Ask families to share their thoughts on their child’s bilingual development and how this may relate to their goals.*”)
- Invite teachers to explore resources labeled “Strategy Overview,” beginning in their lettered area and moving to the next lettered area as needed.
- Each teacher should pick one Strategy Overview they are especially interested in to “give” to a colleague.
- Teachers can use the attached [Graphic Organizer](#) to capture some notes related to the resource that they would use to help a colleague understand the purpose and use of the resource.

(20 min) Resource Sharing: Give One, Get Two

- Invite each teacher to find a partner who started with a different letter.
- Then, invite pairs to share their “give one” resource with each other, using the “get two” portion of the [Graphic Organizer](#) to take notes on the resource they are receiving.
- Then, switch partners and repeat the activity so that each teacher shares the resource they explored on the site, or the resource “given” to them in the first round.
- By the end, each teacher “gets” two different resources from partners.

(10 min) Whole Group Share Out & Closing

- To close, invite teachers to debrief the activity, using the following prompts:
 - An idea I’m taking away or going to implement from today’s activity is...
 - A question or wonder I’m still thinking about is...

Graphic Organizer: Give One, Get Two

Give One: Fill out the top portion of the Graphic Organizer to “give one” resource idea to your colleagues.

1. Name of resource:

This resource helps teachers engage with families by...

Use optional prompts to prepare notes to share information about this resource to a colleague:

Implementation in the classroom might look like...

Key takeaways from this resource are...

This resource is important because...

An additional question or comment I have is...

Get Two: This space is left blank as a place to take notes when you “get two” ideas from colleagues.

2. Name of resource:

3. Name of resource:

Talking Points for Resource Walk: Family Engagement

Part 1: Introducing the Multilingual Learning Toolkit

- Today we are going to explore a website called the Multilingual Learning Toolkit: www.multilinguallearningtoolkit.org.
- The website is a collection of resources and best practices specifically for educators who support young Multilingual Learners (MLs).
- Some are articles and videos for your learning; others are templates and teaching strategies you can use in the classroom.
- All the resources have been carefully curated by professionals in the field, and you can be confident that everything in the Toolkit is high-quality.
- The site and all of the resources are free and available to all.
- Click “sign in” at the top right, and then click “Please create an account here.”
 - Accounts are free—this will enable you to create a “Favorites Library” on the site and save resources in which you’re interested.
 - [Give teachers time to create an account.] (5 minutes)
- How the site is organized:
 - The different parts of the site are listed at the top.
 - If you click “Starter Guide” you’ll be able to read a description of some foundational principles about teaching MLs.
 - All of the resources are under “[Strategies & Resources](#)”—please click there.
 - Scroll down and you’ll see eleven different instructional topic areas. Today, we’ll focus on [#1 Family Engagement](#)—please click there.
 - The page has a description of what family engagement is all about, followed by “Strategies in Action,” which are profiles of different teachers using strategies to engage with families of MLs.
 - Below that are a series of evidence-based strategies for supporting family engagement.

Part 2: Introducing Family Engagement

- Families have a wealth of information to share about their language, culture, home and community life, and child.
- Frequent and consistent home-school communication supports positive outcomes for children from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

- Families play a critical role in the support of home language development and the cultural identity of their child.
- Teachers can help families understand the advantages of bilingualism and suggest learning activities that families can do with their child at home.
- By partnering with families through consistent two-way communication, teachers and families share information and learn from each other.