

Makeover Minutes

Quick tips for your learning environment



Multilingual Learning Environments

Multilingual learning environments are those in which more than one language is spoken by children or adults, either in the classroom, at home, or both. Multilingual environments provide a special opportunity for children to learn about diversity, feel a sense of belonging in their classroom, and increase exposure to language during the critical early years of development.



Watch Video:
[Multilingual Learning Environments](#)

Environmental Tips

Daily Routines

Use routines to introduce new words that directly connect with what children are doing. Repeating commonly used words and phrases will help a child understand and learn new vocabulary. Examples:

- Count in a variety of languages while putting toys away or taking attendance.
- Greet children and parents in their home language.
- Narrate your actions and talk frequently with children during routines such as diaper changes and handwashing.
- Encourage multilingual children to share words from their home language during meals and snacks.

Displays and labels



Multilingual displays and labels allow children to see a variety of letters and words in different languages. They also support multilingual children by seeing their own language reflected in the learning environment.

Music

Music is a cross-cultural domain and a meaningful way to help children hear the different cadence and rhythm of various languages. Cultural music, rhymes, and simple songs in other languages can be used to teach language skills, as well as foster a sense of belonging for the children in your group.

Books



Books teach language and are a staple of children's early development. Check with your local library for

books in different languages. Include languages spoken at home by the children in your group, as well as languages that are unfamiliar. Practice new words together during group times. Ask multilingual children to be the teacher and learn new words from them!

Additional Resources

Visit the [Meaningful Makeover](#) website for full episodes and more great tips!

References

Harms, T., Cryer, D., Clifford, R. M., & Yazejian, N. (2019). Family child care environment rating scale, third edition (FCCERS-3). New York, NY: Teachers College Press.

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