

Promising and Effective Early Education Practices for Dual Language Learners

**Cristina Gillanders, PhD 2018
University Of Colorado Denver**

**Promoting the success of young children learning English:
Nebraska and National Perspectives**

BASED ON RESEARCH EVIDENCE, WHAT ARE
SOME OF THE MOST EFFECTIVE
EDUCATIONAL PRACTICES FOR DLLS FROM
B-8?

HIGH QUALITY EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION SETTINGS

- Positive relationships
- Intentional teaching
- Partnering with families
- Interesting environments and materials
- Qualified teachers
- Comprehensive curricula
- Culturally sustaining practices



IS THIS ENOUGH?

USE OF LANGUAGE OTHER THAN ENGLISH



Support in children's language other than English leads to higher social, cognitive, and academic achievement levels

(Barnett, Yarosz, Thomas, Jung, & Blanco, 2007; Burchinal, Field, López, Howes, & Pianta, 2012)

SUPPORTING DEVELOPMENT OF THE LANGUAGE OTHER THAN ENGLISH

- Bilingual programs (Barnett, Yarosz, Thomas, Jung, & Blanco, 2007; Durán, Roseth & Hoffman, 2010)
- English only instruction with language other than English support (Castro et al, 2017)



WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

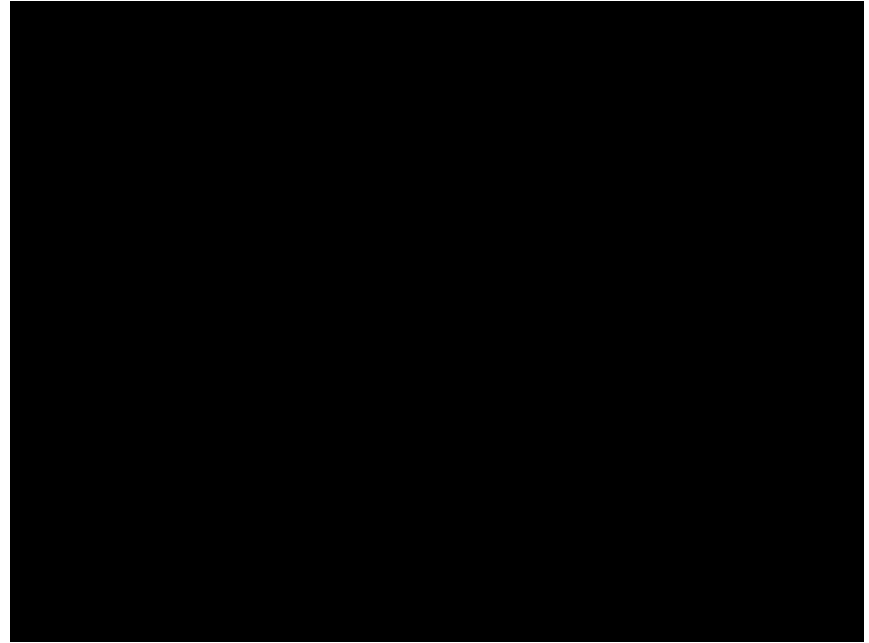
- High quality is beneficial for DLLs but it is insufficient to promote children's full potential
- Strategic use of the other than English language is important in both bilingual and English-only classrooms



EXAMPLE OF STRATEGIES

Development of
vocabulary

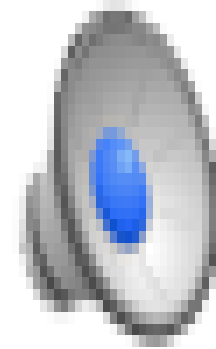
- Comprehension
- Participation



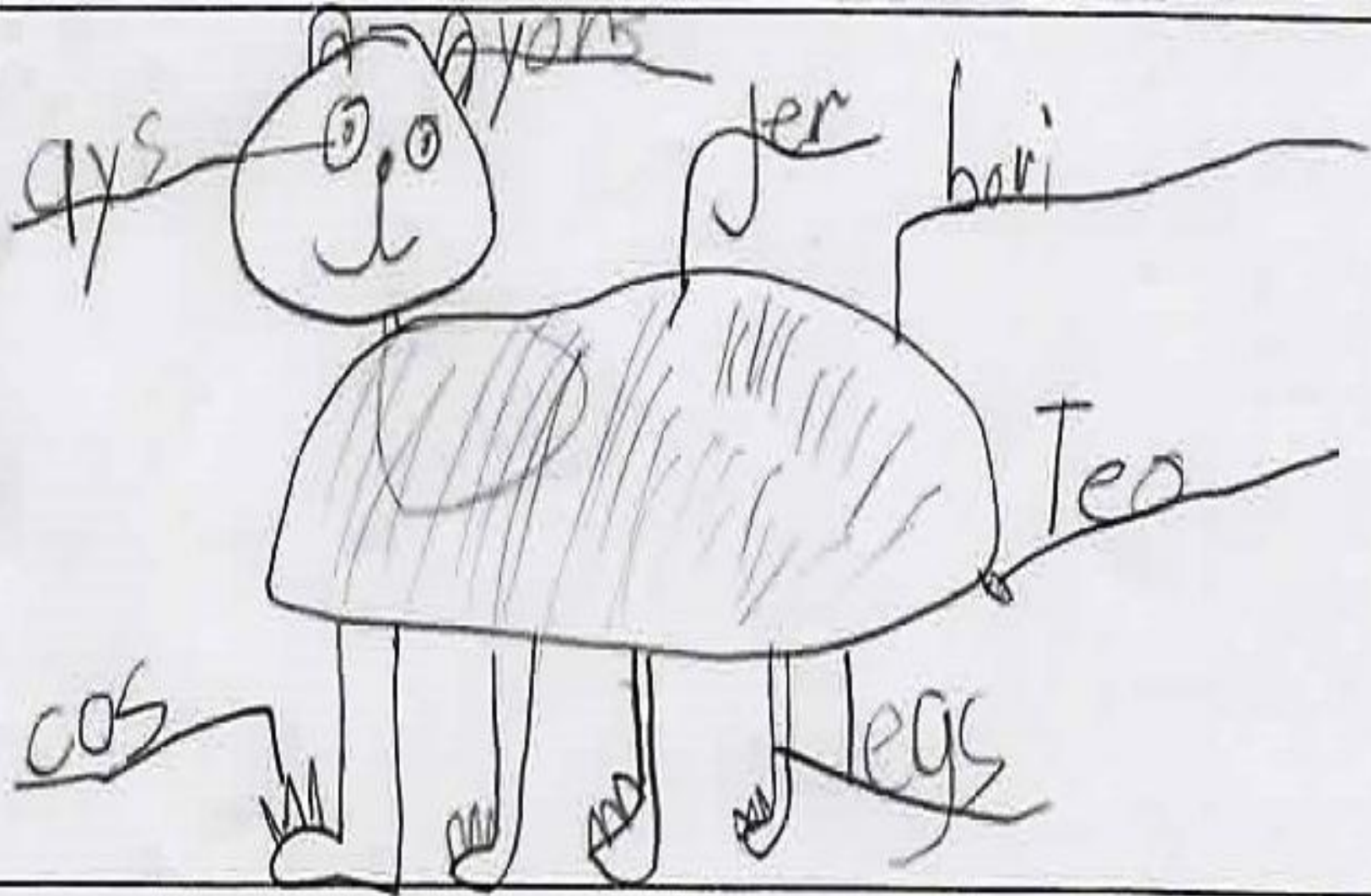
EXAMPLE OF STRATEGIES

Development of
vocabulary

- Comprehension
- Participation



WHICH IN-CLASSROOM AND OUT-OF-CLASSROOM INFLUENCES, INCLUDING PROFESSIONAL ATTITUDES AND BIASES, AFFECT OUTCOMES IN YOUNG DLLS BOTH POSITIVELY AND NEGATIVELY?



Casa

hubs



FAMILIES' CONTRIBUTIONS

- Teach letters in English and Spanish
- Read aloud books
- Write child's and family members names
- Dictation
- Find words in letter soups
- Make list of ingredients for cake
- Chant the alphabet
- Play school
- Create stories orally before going to bed
(Gillanders & Jimenez, 2004)



WHAT CHALLENGES DO SCHOOLS AND
COMMUNITIES FACE AND WHAT RESOURCES ARE
AVAILABLE FOR DEVELOPING AND
IMPLEMENTING EFFECTIVE PROGRAMS FOR
DLLS?



EARLY EDUCATORS

Preparing teachers that are bilingual and that lead rather than assist



