

Many Languages, One Classroom: Teaching Dual and English Language Learners
by Karen Nemeth. Gryphon House, 2009. ISBN 978-87659-087-4.

This is a must-have professional resource for all early childhood educators, whether teaching in a center-based or family child care program. Many of us have at least two different home languages spoken by the children who are in our programs; often there are many more languages. How does one provide developmentally appropriate practice, which takes into consideration both the developmental needs of the group as well as the individual child, when the teacher does not speak the languages of all the children in her group? Ms. Nemeth starts by presenting an overview of language acquisition, language learning, dual language learners, along with some general suggestions such as involving families. Subsequent chapters supply the reader with useful and workable strategies, techniques and activities.

Each chapter offers practical ideas for the practitioner. Each includes: ideas for the classroom environment, links to learning standards, language enhancement activities, effective and meaningful ways to connect with families, classroom technology tips and questions for teacher reflection. Her suggestions are doable, cost-conscious, as well as culturally sensitive. Here is one example from the chapter about the small toy/manipulative area:

In the section entitled *Links to Learning Standards* and the sub-section of *Social, Relationship, and Self-Regulation* she writes¹

“◎ Play start/stop games, which are easy to demonstrate for DLL children. For example, have children start puzzles, and then ring a bell signaling they should stop and move to the next person/s puzzle and take over. This type of activity gives children the experience of self-regulation.

◎ Encourages peer-to-peer conversation. For example, if a dual language learner shows that she needs help to open some playdough or fit a puzzle piece into a puzzle, invite another child in the area to help her.

◎ Narrate children's play to encourage DLL children to join in and be accepted by the other children.”

¹ Reference above. Pages 60-61.

This sample gives you a sense of Ms. Nemeth's writing style and how accessible this resource is. I highly recommend you get your own copy.

In conclusion, follow this link

<http://www.gryphonhouse.com/store/trans/productDetailForm.asp?BookID=14399> to get your copy of Many Languages, One Classroom.