

Dual Language Program Goals

The primary objective of our APLC Early Childhood Dual Language Program is to implement cultural and linguistic education which is a developmentally appropriate curriculum in preschools, where children develop their first language and are exposed to a second language. Together, native English speakers and Spanish speakers engage in rich educational experiences that will provide positive cross-cultural attitudes and behaviors which they will maintain throughout their adult lives.

What are the Dual Language benefits?

The Early Childhood Dual Language Program advocates the use of learning and teaching strategies that are founded on developmentally appropriate practices such as:

- cooperative learning
- thematic approach
- learning centers
- hands-on teaching and learning
- appropriate use of technology.

An Early Childhood Dual Language Program offers unique opportunities for participating students to:

- Develop two languages,
- Form a positive self image,
- Augment a better understanding and respect for other cultures, and to
- develop necessary social skills.

The program presents parents and the community with optimum and on-going opportunities for communication, understanding, and collaboration between home and school.

This information is adapted from the following research and material at:

http://www.carla.umn.edu/immersion/acie/vol4/nov2000_duallanguage.html

APLC Dual Language Program Model

Dual language programs are utilized by schools to educate children in two languages simultaneously. Each school determines the percentage allocated to each language. As we enter into our first year of implementation of our Dual Language program, we will be more intentional in the addition of the Spanish language. This will be accomplished within our natural classroom setting, for example, circle activities, transitions and center times.

APLC Day School program is **designed for children who do not understand or speak Spanish but is also perfect for native spanish speakers**. Our preschool provides an opportunity for children to learn Spanish through the experiences presented in a typical childhood curriculum. Children learn developmentally-appropriate, functional use of the Spanish language.



Source: Howard, E. R., Chaput, N., & Rogers, D. (2002). The dual language program planner: A guide for designing and implementing dual language programs (2nd ed.). Washington, DC and Santa Cruz, CA: Center for Research in Education, Diversity & Excellence.