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### Advocacy Project

#### Change Dual Language Learners

Advocating for a change in dual language learner's system is to ensure a diverse education in classroom through the country. Changing the curriculums will help students who first language is not English, by doing this we would have a better connection with students as well as parents. We have seen schools in which the population of children that come from households of immigrants and whose parents don't speak the language. The lack of recourse in the school of this community is overwhelming and shocking as well. My concern come from all those children who feel isolated because they fear talking and because they don't understand at all. We are losing our children education and we must find a connection to them; at the same time those children are losing their connection with their family's culture and background because they want to fit in class. Those children are being affected in a long-term period. At the same time parents wish they can be connected to their teachers in order to help their children development. I will like providers, teacher, principals to add more activities and strategies into their daily routines.

Due to the lack of resources for bilingual children, children don't get an equal education. We need to act now; we need to give parents as well as children the tools so they can improve in their education. We can start with small steps like asking schools to schedule meetings with teachers and parents before the first day of school. By doing this the school will have a better

understanding of which children and family will need language assistance. Another approach is teacher should take actions by adding the language into their daily activity, like circle time, reading books in both languages, sending home newsletters in both languages, by this parent will be aware of the things their children are learning. We want dual language programs to be effective in closing the achievement gap that we are seen in different school. By adding more English into the curriculum doesn't mean that the result will be having strong readers on writing when they grow up.

The impact of dual language programs in a child life can increased the cognitive dexterity and can get better at problem solving. By adding their language into the classroom, we are embracing the cultural awareness and we are opening the classroom and school into a mix diversity. By doing this we are teaching all children that we are all different, and we are fitting bullying and racism between children. A very important point for dual language is that educators can built a strong self-perception and identity on every child just by having a dual language program. Many will not know that by adding a dual language program we are helping children and parent to learn in a new and effective way.

For me to get everyone on board we must talk to our principals from the different school, we must get data from the census to show and prove the increase of families into certain neighborhoods that don't speak English. This issue needs to be addressed now because we are having many children been isolated and feeling lonely and this can cause them into depression. As we see in the news that the country is having a big wave of immigrant minors from Central America arriving in the United States. These children will be arriving at the school of many of you principals and we need to be ready to asset them in every possible way.

In many parts of the country, we have seen children not been able to participate and been part of the classroom. By adding words of themes that have meaningful to these children can have a big impact on their everyday education. We can see this on the article “Supporting Language: Culturally Rich Dramatic Play” by Irasema Salinas-Gonzales Maria talks about how daily activities on children’s lives can be an influence in a day in school by adding activities. A good example that the kids brought was a “Panaderia” a “Bakery”. Each kid shares the experience about going to a local bakery and the teacher made the bakery a theme for the dramatic play center. By doing this she was able to integrate culture, language into their daily activity. By creating interesting experiences for children, their play becomes interactive, and they develop communication skills. Children development must be supported by their teachers which will allow them their language development. Teachers can add activities like the one mentioned on the article and, they can add a book in story time or circle time that can be related to bakeries. Also, we can add a small cooking class about how to make a cake or bread, on this activity we can name all the ingredients on different language to make a connection to their family. Small activities can have a very impact into their education.

Dual Language is a great approach to develop a great language proficiency in literacy in both English and other language like Spanish. By been an advocate for dual language learners we must find way to make a change by doing this we need to find way to make it happen. Like been part of community events in which we can talk to community members about how important is for children to be exposed to dual language. We need teachers that can support our advocate plan, because they are they one who work with our children.

Education from an early age is an advantage for many of our children, and by incorporating a dual language program into their education will be and advantage in their

education. On the article by Claude Goldenberg “Dual Language Learners. Effective Instruction in Early Childhood” talks about the life of immigrant children who attend at a lower rate than children of nonimmigrant parents. Children who attend preschool or kindergarten have an advantage in reading and math compare to those who are not enrolled in centers. Children who are learning English as a second language will get early proficiency in their mother’s tongue. If educators use children’s home language it will build bridges with families to support each children learning. Families have always played an important role in children education, but if parents get involved in their preschool experiences the education of children will be a total success. As the article mentioned teachers underestimate those minority parents who are not fluent in English but if educators make a path to provide information in different languages, they are going to support their children’s school success. Some of the key points that the article mentions and that I agree with it is that school should employing children’s home language in early childhood curriculum. Promoting language development in English at home their home language in every single possible way. Involving families in supporting children language learning. If children, see that their family members are involved in school they are going to feel more secure and are going to be more comfortable on learning new things.

The beginning of a school year may be scary for many children around the country. But most scary is starting in a school in which your mother tongue is not the main language, but a different one. On the first day of school immigrant parents who don’t know English as well as children can have a range of feelings and emotions, feeling nervous, sad, happy and excited can be some of the feelings that families around the country had faced. Been an immigrant at 11 years old, from a small hometown in Mexico, I was able to experience this fear on the first day of school. For 11 years of my life, I had only heard one language around family, friends and

teacher and it was Spanish. The beginning of an education on this country was not an easy task for me, my siblings and specially my mother.

Been the oldest child of three felt like my mother was experimenting on my education. Not knowing the language made everything harder, the school I attendant only spoke to me in English and because of that I loss one year of school. Something my parents told from the first moment I enter school was that “I was supposed to forget about Spanish and to focus on speaking, thinking only in English” and if I wanted to succeed in this country.

The reason why I decided to be a voice and advocate to “Dual Language Learners” is because once I was child who felt lost on the first day of school. Due to this I had depression as a child because I felt like I dint belong in a classroom where I dint fit and couldn’t communicate and connect to either my teacher or classmates. And now that I have a child of my own, I understand the frustration from many parents who see that their children are loss and feel left out. I want to be the voice of those who don’t have one, a voice to millions of children and parents. We are the voice; we can make a change the life of one child at a time.

Works Cited

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