



educPLAN | Issue 3

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Dear Colleagues in World Education,

We are pleased to share the June issue of our newsletter, a continuation of our bimonthly series in which we highlight key themes and practical insights that support teaching, learning, and international collaboration across contexts.

This issue focuses on the importance of inspiring learning in the early years - particularly for languages - contributing to an essential basis for World Education. We hope you find the reflections and strategies in this edition both relevant and applicable to your work.

A Brief Note from educPLAN

educPLAN supports educational institutions in advancing internationalization through focused professional development and program design. Our work centers on Content and Language Integrated Learning (CLIL), English as a Medium of Instruction (EMI), Global Competences, and Cross-Cultural and Professional Communication.

We partner with institutions to strengthen teaching, learning, and collaboration across international contexts through practical and customized initiatives.

In Focus:

Inspiring Learning in the Early Years – an Essential Basis for World Education

Building Strong Foundations Through Play, Language, and Exploration

Early childhood education plays a central role in children's cognitive, social, emotional, linguistic, and physical development. Learning takes place in an environment where children feel safe, engaged, curious, and motivated to learn.

Modern early childhood programs emphasize:

- Play-based learning
- Language-rich environments
- Inclusion and diversity
- Inquiry and exploration
- Social-emotional development
- Family partnerships

Multilingual and Multicultural Environment

Early childhood classrooms are increasingly multilingual and multicultural. Education in a multilingual and multicultural environment requires more than teaching academic content. It involves creating learning conditions that value linguistic diversity, cultural inclusion, equity, and intercultural understanding. The following components are essential:

- **Inclusive Educational Philosophy**

- Recognition of linguistic and cultural diversity as an asset
- Commitment to equity, inclusion, and social justice
- Respect for all learners' identities, backgrounds, and experiences
- Promotion of democratic values and global citizenship

- **Language Education**

- Integration of the child's main language development across all subject areas
- Support for learners' main languages and additional language
- Explicit support of the child's host country language
- Clear language learning objectives alongside content objectives
- Opportunities for multilingual communication
- Differentiated language support according to the learner's needs

- **Intercultural Competence**

- Develop cultural awareness
- Develop cultural sensitivity
- Show empathy and take different perspectives
- Show respect for different worldviews

- Develop skills for intercultural communication and collaboration
 - Connect learning to students' cultural backgrounds
 - Use diverse examples and perspectives
 - Avoid stereotypes and bias
 - Create meaningful and relevant learning experiences
 - Use multilingual literature
 - Use diverse learning materials
 - Support project-based intercultural learning
 - Create and support collaborative learning structures
- Safe and Supportive Learning Environment
 - Sense of belonging for all learners
 - Respectful classroom relationships
 - Anti-discrimination policies and practices
 - Positive attitudes toward linguistic and cultural diversity
- Students should feel
 - Seen
 - Heard
 - Valued
 - Respected
 - Safe to express their identities

Concluding Summary

Early Childhood Education in a multilingual and multicultural environment is most effective when linguistic and cultural diversity is recognized as a strength that enriches learning for everyone. Such an educational approach combines high academic expectations with inclusive practices that support all learners in developing their linguistic, cognitive, social, and intercultural competencies.

Ultimately, the goal is to develop multilingual, culturally competent, and globally minded individuals who can communicate across languages and cultures, think critically, collaborate effectively, and contribute responsibly to increasingly diverse and interconnected communities in a globalized world.



For more information: contact@educplan.com

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Reading & Resources

We leave you with a selection of resources connected to this month's focus on inspiring language learning in childhood years. These readings offer perspectives from policy, practice, and higher education contexts. We invite you to explore and share any reflections in our blog.

[Embracing Linguistic Diversity to Support Multilingual Learners](#)

NAEYC

This article offers practical strategies for supporting multilingual learners in early childhood classrooms. It highlights the importance of language-rich conversations, open-ended questions, storytelling, dramatic play, environmental print, and valuing children's home languages as part of the learning environment.

[5 Ways to Support Dual Language Learning in Early Childhood Education Programs](#)

Zero to Three

This resource provides practical guidance for early childhood educators working with dual language learners. It emphasizes intentional teaching, family engagement, use of home languages, and culturally responsive classroom practices that help young children feel included and supported.

[Communication and Language Approaches](#)

Education Endowment Foundation

This evidence-based summary explains that communication and language approaches in the early years can have a very high impact on children's learning. It highlights the value of vocabulary development, interactive adult-child communication, early literacy support, and professional development for educators.

Early Childhood Language Development in a Digital World

Children and Screens

This article examines how digital media can affect early language development, especially when screen time replaces parent-child interaction, book reading, conversation, and play. It reinforces the importance of live communication and meaningful interaction in young children's language growth.

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Contact

Be in touch!

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References (embedded links for Reading & Resources titles above):

Embracing Linguistic Diversity to Support Multilingual Learners

<https://www.naeyc.org/resources/pubs/tyc/summer2024/embracing-linguistic-diversity>

5 Ways to Support Dual Language Learning in Early Childhood Education Programs

<https://www.zerotothree.org/resource/5-ways-to-support-dual-language-learning-in-early-childhood-education-programs/>

Communication and Language Approaches

<https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/early-years/toolkit/communication-and-language-approaches>

Early Childhood Language Development in a Digital World

<https://www.childrenandscreens.org/learn-explore/research/early-childhood-language-development-in-a-digital-world/>