

Dual Language Weekly Focus

Bilingual Pairs

The Dallas ISD Dual Language Model calls for the use of Bilingual Pairs throughout the daily instruction. The pairing of students increases language development as they work together to complete assignments and projects. Consider the implications of bilingual pairs in four areas: student grouping, use of pairs throughout the day, the benefits that can be attained and how bilingual pairing aligns with the Principles of Learning.

Grouping the Students:

- ★ Pair stronger Spanish speakers with stronger English speakers
- ★ Should change throughout the day based on student strengths in content areas and language
- ★ Consider student personalities as well
- ★ Post list of bilingual pairs in a way that they can be changed quickly throughout the day and week (e.g., pocket charts, clothes pins, Velcro etc.)

Uses of Bilingual Pairs:

- ★ During Whole group instruction: “Turn to your partner and describe the main character;” “Tell your partner how you would solve this problem;” “With your partner name the parts of the plant and their functions” etc.
- ★ During Small group instruction: student groups have one assignment between two students.
- ★ During Bilingual Learning Centers
- ★ Eliminates the one question = one answer dilemma and engages all students.
- ★ Recap at the end of the lesson: “Tell your partner two things you learned about measurement today.”
- ★ Quick assessment of student prior knowledge before a lesson, comprehension during a lesson and understanding after a lesson.

Benefits:

- ★ Language Development
- ★ Increase content talk
- ★ Raise expectation (HOT) by challenging the pair or group to do more
- ★ Students learn from one another
- ★ Helps students clarify meaning for one another when the content is taught in the second language.
- ★ Moves instruction from teacher centered to student centered
- ★ Engages all students
- ★ When students teach each other, they retain the information better
- ★ Helps close academic & language gaps

Alignment with Principles of Learning (POLs)

- ★ Accountable Talk: It is naturally there if they are talking with a partner about the task. They can defend, clarify, extend, and explain concepts with a partner.
- ★ Academic Rigor: Students can work together to complete more challenging tasks.
- ★ Socializing Intelligence: students work together to construct meaning.
- ★ Clear Expectations: Student expectations must be clearly outlined for bilingual pairs to be an effective part of instruction.