Supporting Young Multilingual Learners

The Supporting Young Multilingual Learners module series explores the diversity of California's young multilingual learners, ways to identify multilingual learners, and the benefits of multilingualism. It also describes how children become multilingual and factors that impact multilingual development. In addition, the modules introduce program language approaches and strategies that support multilingual learners to fully participate in the early learning and care setting.

Consider this module series if you relate to the following:

- You work with children who are learning more than one language.
- You support, train, mentor, or coach others who work with multilingual learners.
- You are seeking strategies to work with families of multilingual learners.
- You want to increase your understanding of how to identify multilingual learners.
- You are interested in strategies to support multilingual learners and continue the development of their home languages as they learn English.

Why This Module Series Is Unique

- Offers ideas on how to identify multilingual learners in early learning and care settings.
- Provides interactive opportunities to engage adult learners while building on their existing knowledge and skills.
- Includes specific strategies for getting to know multilingual learners and their families.
- Offers learners opportunities to reflect on their own beliefs, values, and practices.
- Incorporates video examples of research-based practices for supporting young multilingual learners.

The four modules in this series cover a range of information. Here is a sample of what you will find in these modules:

Module 1: Identifying and Understanding Children Who Are Multilingual Learners (1 hour)
Introduces vocabulary and describes the diversity of young multilingual learners in California.

Module 2: Understanding Multilingual Development (2 hours)
Explores the benefits of multilingualism, how children learn one or more languages, factors that impact multilingual development, and ways multilingual development differs from monolingual development. Addresses considerations for assessing multilingual learners.

Module 3: Learning About and Engaging Families of Multilingual Learners (1 hour)
Examines ways to learn about and engage families of young multilingual learners.

Module 4: Strategies for Supporting Multilingual Development in Early Learning and Care Settings (2 hours)
Describes guiding principles for supporting multilingual learners in early learning and care settings. Uses video clips, photos, and illustrations to demonstrate research-based strategies for supporting multilingual learners and continue the development of their home languages as they learn English.

This module series is available at no cost. To enroll, create a free account on California Early Childhood Online.