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TITLE: Translanguaging Pedagogies

CAROLINA CABEZAS-BENALCAZAR, RESEARCHER & EARLY CHILDHOOD PROFESSIONAL: The first eight years of a child's life are crucial for language development and for establishing strong foundations for learning and their emerging bilingualism. Responding to the multilingual realities of Victorian children and families and upholding their linguistic and cultural rights in an equitable manner involves critical reflection around how our everyday practices can better support children to express themselves freely, learn and use the language of their family and communities, and develop their bilingual potential.

Research shows how bilingual and monolingual educators can incorporate translanguaging strategies to enhance an inclusive approach to children's emergent bilingualism. Planning and implementing translanguaging pedagogies in the early years can be a transformative practice that enables educators to differentiate curriculum and pedagogy to the languages, realities, experiences and means of each child.

This practice guide explores a range of learning scenarios that can be used by educators or groups of educators to reflect on their own settings and experiences of teaching and learning with emergent bilinguals. These scenarios can support educators to re-imagine how they can nurture a multilingual ecology that affords rich language-learning opportunities and experiences for all children.

MELODIE DAVIES, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, FKA CHILDREN'S SERVICES: Early childhood professionals move beyond using a child's family language as the language of instruction to the language of everyday. Creating a multilingual ecology means that early-childhood professionals work to create environments:

* where all languages are valued,
* where we provide space, time and the opportunity for children to practice their linguistic repertoire, and
* where children will have a stronger sense of belonging in our services and a greater opportunity to actively participate in their learning environments.

CAROLINA CABEZAS-BENALCAZAR: We hope that you can use this guide to explore new concepts and theories about supporting children's emergent bilingualism and language learning in the early years.

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