

CULTURAL & PLURILINGUAL AWARENESS

Plurilingual strategies

What does this look like in the classroom?

No matter what learning area you are teaching, you can support a student's English language learning by providing explicit opportunities for them to draw on their knowledge of other languages. Employ simple strategies in any classroom to encourage plurilingualism, which promotes engagement and participation, and fosters a sense of belonging.

Encourage students to:



identify or make connections between English and their home language sounds



use images and culturally familiar objects from their home country to connect to their learning



mix English and their home language in a range of verbal and non-verbal forms

use their home language with a peer or support officer to:

- clarify simple steps to complete a task
- discuss key concepts and terminology
- consider how to interact both verbally and non-verbally
- clarify subject-specific concepts, grammar or spelling rules
- compare the differences in verbal and non-verbal expression between cultures.



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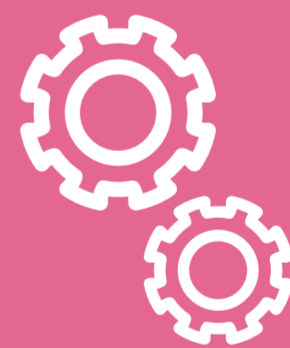
Encourage students to:



mix small amounts of copied English with their home language

use their home language with a peer or support officer to:

- identify sounds and words in English
- clarify and repeat basic English letters, words or spelling rules
- understand responses from peers or the teacher
- generate simple responses in English
- help to express an opinion about a topic or task and justify it
- translate new words, phrases or concepts
- infer and make meaning from new words or phrases
- reflect on thoughts about word choices or effectiveness of learning strategies.



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Encourage students to:

- ask and answer questions in their home language about classroom instructions or content with peers, support officers or translation tools as support
- teach peers and teachers expressions in their home language (for example, greetings, counting, classroom objects or instructions)

- record an audio or video message using their home language to explain prior knowledge about a class topic, using images as a prompt

- communicate in their home language while working with peers to carry out a procedure (for example, a recipe, experiment, exercise routine or maths problem)
- perform a song, story or monologue in their home language to share knowledge and develop confidence in speaking to a group
- explain a concept or recount an experience to family members in their home language and make a recording as a resource for translation or writing.

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Encourage students to:

- research a project (for example, a story, recipe, technology, significant person or historical event) by talking to family or community members
- teach peers a skill (for example, a sports technique, dance move or solving an equation), incorporating demonstration, body language, and key words in multiple languages
- review learnt concepts by explaining them in their home language to peers, family members or support officers
- interview a family or community member who is knowledgeable about a class topic and share insights with the class

- discuss (in a group) a text or topic using their home language and prepare to share ideas with the class in English
- enhance oral presentations by incorporating their home language into speech or slides to add nuance and detail

- share their home language expressions or culturally specific metaphors that help explain concepts
- create a video combining their home language and English speech or subtitles explaining a subject concept to an audience.