



# Effective Practices for Partnering With Families of English Learner Students in Preschool and Kindergarten

## Overview

This resource collection is drawn from web-based events that share strategies for educators interested in fostering effective partnerships with families of young English learner students.

## Speakers

- » **Linda Espinosa** Professor (Emeritus), University of Missouri
- » **Maria Paredes** Senior Program Associate, WestEd
- » **Melanie Packham** Comprehensive School Assistance Program, WestEd

## Resources

1. Webinar: “Structuring Meaningful Home-School Partnerships with Families of Young English Learner Students”

In this webinar, three presenters share research and practical strategies on structuring strong home-school partnerships. The main sections of the webinar address: 1) research on the foundations of effective partnerships, 2) information on academic and linguistic skills and dispositions that students need to succeed and that families can support, and 3) examples of successful outreach efforts.

- i. Webinar Video (1:15:40)
- ii. PowerPoint Presentation
- iii. Transcript

2. Webinar: “Building Capacity for School Success in Families of Young English Learner Students”

This webinar provides information, tips, and practical strategies to support school readiness for young English learner students and addresses ways to overcome barriers to effective home-school partnerships. This webinar is rich in resources and practical strategies that educators can use to foster effective home-school partnerships and actively engage families in supporting academic and linguistic growth in their young English learner children.

- i. Webinar Video (1:05:08)
- ii. PowerPoint Presentation
- iii. Transcript

## Additional Resources

This list of resources is a compilation of documents, reports, and websites shared via PowerPoint slides and the chat function during the webinar not mentioned above.

1. REL West Reference Desk Memo. (September 2015). “Research on Parent Liaisons.” <http://ow.ly/XzuQE>
2. REL West Reference Desk Memo. (August 2015). “Engaging Families of Young English Learner Students.” <http://ow.ly/XzuYP>
3. REL West Reference Desk Memo. (2014, August). “Summary of State Early Childhood Guidelines and Standards for Dual Language Learners.” <http://ow.ly/Xzvam>
4. Center for American Progress research report. Tracey Ross. (2015). *The Case for a Two-Generation Approach for Educating English Language Learners*. 2015. <http://ow.ly/Xzwom>

## Tips for Facilitators: Using These Materials for Professional Learning

These webinars and the associated materials provide strong, research-based content to help preschool or primary grade educators develop effective home-school partnerships with families of young English learner students.

1. Plan for engagement with these resources by developing some questions or a problem of practice regarding effective home-school partnerships. This will ensure that your use of the materials is targeted, strategic, and mindful of the time of the participants.
2. Select key resources and develop professional learning opportunities that respond to your focus or problem of practice. Some suggestions follow:
  - i. Jigsaw the three REL West Reference Desk Memos. Discuss the relevance to your context and determine next steps or additional questions you may have.
  - ii. Use some of the slides from Webinar 1 (e.g. slides 5, 11, 13) to provide a base from which to reflect on your parent engagement structure.
  - iii. Review the websites of organizations with promising approaches shared in Webinar 1 (slides 26–27) for ideas on how to respond to your questions or problem of practice.
  - iv. View in their entirety or just segments of the webinars with a viewing guide related to your problem of practice.
  - v. Consider the specific activities showcased particularly in Webinar 2. Watch that section of the webinar to discern in what ways the activity is similar or different to what you currently do and how it might address your problem of practice.
  - vi. Review the many resources shared in Webinar 2, especially on slides 12–14 and 22–24 yourself or divide them up among participants for new ideas to consider with your team.

These resources can be reproduced for educational purposes. Please cite as follows: Espinosa, L., Paredes, M., & Packham, M. (2015, September 30). *Effective Practices for Partnering With Families of English Learner Students in Preschool and Kindergarten [Webinar series]*. Retrieved from: <https://relwest.wested.org/events/323>.