

Supporting Multilingual Learners with the Science of Reading

When it comes to the Science of Reading, will strategies that work for native English speakers also work for multilingual learners? How does direct, systematic, and explicit instruction support English-language development? Do multilingual learners require additional small group instruction informed by science-based reading strategies?

In our “Science of Reading and Multilingual Learners” webinar, multilingual education experts answer these questions and more to help you support the multilingual learners in your classroom.

Explore key takeaways and practical tips from the session below!

Key Takeaways



Research shows that English language learners, or multilingual learners, learn in many of the same ways our native English-speaking students do, but they need additional supports.



Ensuring proper background knowledge is key for all students, but especially for multilingual learners. Finding ways to connect the content to things that students already know can help with their comprehension.



Frontloading and pre-teaching vocabulary words through the support of direct instruction can set students up for success.



Oral language is the foundation for reading. To be successful, multilingual learners require increased opportunities to practice and develop their oral language skills.



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Try it Today!

1

Check in with questions.

Asking multilingual learners questions and engaging them in discussion about classroom content can help you gauge their level of understanding.

2

Use visual supports to elucidate key concepts.

Visual tools like gestures, illustrations, multimedia graphics, and graphic organizers can support your instruction—and your students' learning.

3

Differentiate as needed.

While it's not feasible to create an individualized program for each learner, it's also not useful for us or students to think of multilingual learners as a homogeneous group. Using small group reading instruction allows you to get to know each student's strengths and needs, so you can modify your teaching accordingly.

4

Switch up your formats.

Give multilingual learners more exposure to text and vocabulary in varied formats (for example, in a small group setting). This is an opportunity to provide further support and practice!

