



# TUS MANOS

“A DIFFERENT LANGUAGE IS A DIFFERENT VISION OF LIFE” - FEDERICO FELLINI

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## What's New?

- Dual Language Institute takes place on October 28th-31st, 2008.
- MSHS Collaboration Office officially awarded to AED!
- If you want to be featured in “Tus Manos,” please let us know.

## Contact Us:



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## About US

The MSHS Collaboration Office was established to address the unique characteristics of the migrant and seasonal farmworker children. We engage in partnership and outreach efforts at the national, state and local level to advocate for MSHS children-birth to compulsory school age. We believe that passion, respect and teamwork help us to achieve results.

## Additional Resources

1. <http://www.ecelc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov> Search specifically: “English Language Learners and Dual Language Acquisition.”

2. Dual Language Learning: “What does it take?” Head Start Dual Language Report.HHS/ACF/OHS.2008.<http://www.hsmrc.org/DLI/?id=39>

3. Challenging Common Myths about Young English Language Learners, Foundations for Child Development Policy Brief No.8 by Linda Espinosa. *Advancing* PK-three, January 2008.

## DUAL LANGUAGE LEARNERS -REINFORCING CLASSROOM CONCEPTS AT HOME

Of the children enrolled in MSHS programs in 2007, 86 percent listed Spanish as their home language. Children who are dual language learners need unique support in early childhood education such as opportunities to develop a strong vocabulary in their home language while progressing toward English and active parent involvement to ensure concepts being taught in the classroom are reinforced at home. Parents are key to preserving the home language and to influencing the agency policy and practices where language is concerned. Their insistence on a clear policy will create a strong partnership with the administrative staff who are charged with organizing policy development. These dual language acquisition policies outline roles, responsibilities and procedures programs will take to support dual language acquisition. It is significant for Head

Start State Collaboration Offices to note that of the 242, 924 children enrolled in Head Start programs nationwide who list Spanish as their home language 23, 319 of them are served in MSHS programs. The MSHS Technical Assistance Center at AED has developed two resources to assist in creating high quality early childhood education setting for young dual language learners. They are “Bilingual Infant/Toddler Environments: Supporting Language and Learning in our Youngest Children: A Guide for Migrant and Seasonal Head Start Programs” and “Making a Difference: A Framework for Supporting First and Second Language Development in Preschool Children of Migrant Farmworkers.”

**For an electronic copy of the resources mentioned above, please go to:**

<http://ece.aed.org/publications/mshs.htm>



Lorena Hernández, MSHS PC  
Minerva Reyna, MSHS Family Services Coordinator

**LORENA  
HERNÁNDEZ  
KNOWS THAT HER  
VOICE MATTERS**

**- FACILITATED BY  
MINERVA REYNA  
ANDEBRA  
DRAKE**

The Hernández family has worked in agriculture for five years and this is the fourth year that the family has participated in the IL DHS MSHS Hoopston Delegate Program. Lorena and her husband Luis Avelar serve on the Delegate Policy Committee and the statewide Policy Council. Lorena serves as secretary and Luis is the vice president and is fulfilling the role of acting president at this time. They have three children. Lorena highlights examples of training

provided by the program on topics such as health, nutrition and parents as decision makers. Lorena says, “we can use our voice to help make changes to policies and help make decisions about the program. Our voice matters.” The training opportunities, such as preventing obesity help families to think differently about their eating habits, meal preparation and the nutrition needs of their children. Lorena says, “I have found that if I had a question about anything, the staff would go

out of their way to find us the answer or find a solution.” This confidence and trust between parents and staff enables parents to view their roles as decision makers and become self sufficient. They have learned how to:

- navigate their community
- advocate for themselves and their children
- look for work
- access services and provide a better life for their children

## How MSHS Programs and HS State Collaboration Offices can Work Together for Dual Language Learners:

MSHS Programs	HS Collab.
Share expertise around working with dual language learners with HSSCO and other state level partners.	Visit MSHS programs to learn about high quality programming for dual language learners.
Participate on State Level Advisory Councils, planning committees, etc. to ensure the needs of dual language learners are included in all aspects of planning.	Ensure the interests of dual language learners are represented at all state level early childhood planning and advisory group/committee meetings.
Provide presentations at Head Start State Association meetings and trainings around providing high quality ECE environments for dual language learners.	Support MSHS programs in networking with Head Start State Associations and providing presentations on dual language learners at meetings and conferences.

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