THE NATIONAL CENTER ON
Quality Teaching
and Learning

TIPS FOR TEACHERS
DUAL LANGUAGE LEARNERS

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

Creating a Caring Community

- Learn about children's interests, experiences, and cultural practices and incorporate them into your classroom activities. Families are a rich source of information about their children.
- Respect and value the children's home languages and cultural identities, and choose culturally appropriate classroom materials.
- Invite families to the classroom to engage the children in cultural experiences and oral traditions, such as storytelling, singing, puppetry, talks with visual displays, etc. in their home languages and in English.

Fostering Connections

- Respond sensitively to children and families whose cultural practices may be different from yours, or unfamiliar to you.
- Learn how to pronounce each child's name correctly. Our names are a key part of our identities.
- Explain to children who are English speakers that sometimes the new English learner may not respond because he or she does not understand what the other child is saying.

Being Aware of Children's Needs

- Learn important words and phrases in each child's home language, such as:
  - Greetings (hello, good morning, good-bye)
  - Polite words (please, thank you)
  - Children's needs (water, bathroom)
  - Classroom routines (free play, outside, sit down, get in line, etc.)

For more information, contact us at: **NCQTL@UW.EDU** or **877-731-0764.**

This document was prepared under Grant #90HC0002 for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Head Start, by the National Center on Quality Teaching and Learning.