

# A Language-Focused Approach to Planning Equitable Learning Opportunities

## WHAT

A language-focused approach to planning applies an equity and language lens to the design of active and engaging learning opportunities for young children. Early care and education (ECE) teachers who adopt a language-focused approach, purposefully plan, or design, equitable learning opportunities for multilingual children that allow children to engage in languaging and learning. This approach not only promotes children's overall early learning and development, it also promotes multilingual children's home language and English language development.

## HOW

- **Reflect on your planning practice.** What sources of information about multilingual children's learning and development—including their home language and English language development—do you consider as you plan? Which standards do you reference as you plan instruction? How do those standards address multilingual children's language development?
- **Focus on what multilingual children can do.** A language-focused approach centers on what multilingual children can do with language. How can you apply knowledge you have about multilingual children to plan equitable opportunities for children to learn and demonstrate their learning?
- **Partner and learn from families.** A language-focused approach positions families as experts in their children's language development. How can you engage in meaningful, two-way communication with families to learn from them about the language children are exposed to and use in their homes and communities? How can you use what you learn from families to inform your planning?
- **Be intentional about addressing equity and language in your planning.** What resources are present in your environment and community that can help you provide multilingual children equitable learning opportunities (e.g., books and materials in children's home language, artifacts representing children's families and communities, volunteers who speak children's home language)?

## WHY

Multilingual children have the right to equitable learning opportunities that allow them to use their language as a tool to help them learn, grow, and flourish as valued and unique individuals.