

*A collection of information and links to websites
concerning
Early Language Learning*

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LANGUAGES IN THE NEWS

*Local Advocacy for Second Language
Education: A Case Study in New Mexico*

This report describes how the Albuquerque Language Teachers Association (ALTA), was formed and how it lobbied the State of New Mexico to pass “English Plus Legislation” – legislation which “holds that the national interest can best be served when all members of our society have full access to effective opportunities to acquire strong English language proficiency PLUS (sic) mastery of a second or multiple languages.”

ALTA conducted a needs assessment of second language (L2) instruction in New Mexico, the results of which were brought to decision makers at the state level. Consequently, the State Superintendent of Public Education commissioned the New Mexico State Task Force on Modern and Classical Languages. The Task Force, comprised of constituents from around the state, studied issues pertaining to L2 and cultural affairs and made recommendations for developing student performance and teacher educational standards for L2 teaching and learning which were approved and adopted by the State Department of Education.

The report presents a six point strategy which contributed to ALTA’s success, descriptions of which are presented in the report:

- Build a community within the ranks
- Identify specific goals [which lead to ultimate goal]
- Identify a committed action group
- Seek advice and outside support
- Effective management strategies
- Maintain flexibility and positive attitudes

Click here to read [*Local Advocacy for Second Language Education: A Case Study in New Mexico*](#) by de Lopez et al.

Early Language Learning in Europe Facts & Figures and FAQs

This page provides an overview of the current status of early language learning (ELL) programs around the EU member states. There are also Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), to which visitors can read summary responses. Questions range from, “Why is early foreign language acquisition so important?” to “Can ELL be harmful to the formation of identity?” and “What will happen, if children (for whatever reason) experience diminishing opportunity to continue language study beyond primary school?”

Click here to read [*Early Language Learning in Europe Facts & Figures and FAQs*](#).

**TIPS AND TOOLS FOR EARLY
LANGUAGE LEARNING**

Madame Shackelford's Wiki

This site includes YouTube videos (some are in English with French sub titles), music clips, a page of resources and links for French levels 1, 2, 3, advocacy documents and videos, "cool tech tools", French Trivia, links to French recipes, information about French holidays, and much more!

Click here to access [Madam Shackelford's Wiki](#).

NCLRC's Careers and Languages

This link provided by the National Capital Language Resource Center (NCLRC) includes information on how knowing another language can benefit a variety of careers. When navigating to the site, individuals can download interviews of various professionals. In these interviews, the professionals discuss their careers, their language background, and how knowing another language helped them to succeed. This is a great resource for demonstrating how a second language can benefit a variety of career paths.

Click here to access the [NCLRC's Careers and Languages](#).

Bilingual/Bicultural Family Network

The Bilingual/Bicultural Family Network was established in 2001 by Corey Heller, an American married to a German, who wanted to raise her children bilingually but could find neither the support, nor the resources, she

needed to accomplish an early start to bilingualism at home. Founded on the belief that "global communication begins at home," the Bilingual/Bicultural Family Network offers a forum and links to resources for bicultural families, the parents of which are looking for support in raising their children bilingually and biculturally.

Click here to access the [Bilingual/Bicultural Family Network](#).

Modern Foreign Language Resources

This volunteer-supported resource is a well-organized treasure trove of teacher-generated resources. The authors are members of two Yahoo groups: mflresources and primarymflresources. There is an option to subscribe to their Yahoo Group, where more resources are housed. Included in this website are PowerPoints, learning games, formative assessments, and visuals.

Click here to access the [Modern Foreign Language Resources](#).

This issue of *Newsworthy* was compiled by Tammy Dann. Send any comments, questions, or information for future issues of *Newsworthy* to Tammy Dann at trdann@q.com.

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