

Languages in the News

Model Early Foreign Language Programs: Key Elements

This digest from the Center for Applied Linguistics (CAL), written by Douglas Gilzow contains important information for advocating for successful early foreign language programs that will sustain themselves. According to Gilzow, it is important that early foreign language programs meet the national standards, incorporate content-enriched curricula, establish articulation, include effective teaching methods, utilize technology, assess students systematically, sustain funding, and continue advocacy. Research has shown that programs that have met these criteria have been successful and sustained themselves over time. Thus, individuals who are advocating for early foreign language programs should advocate for programs that support the previously mentioned criteria.

Click here to read [*Model Early Foreign Language Programs: Key Elements*](#).

Establishing High-Quality Foreign Language Programs in Elementary School

This link, disseminated by Brown University, was developed to provide information for administrators, teachers, and parents who are interested in starting an early foreign language program.

By referencing successful early foreign language programs that have already been developed and sustained, the link includes answers to frequently asked questions. Some of these questions include, “Why teach foreign language in elementary school? Is it worth it? How can a program be sustained over time?” and “Should students with disabilities enroll in early foreign language programs?”

Click here to read [*Establishing High-Quality Foreign Language Programs in Elementary School*](#).

Program Bolsters Department’s Language Capabilities

This article, by Jim Garamone, focuses on the value and importance of the National Security Education Program. The author explains that the military needs languages for more than just combat. It needs people who are experts in both languages and cultures. The focus of the program is on communication, not literature. Program officials are working with students at the elementary, high school and college level to prepare the next generation of language learners.

Click here to read [*Program Bolsters Department’s Language Capabilities*](#).

Tips and Tools for Early Language Learning

STARTALK Language Teacher Development Materials

STARTALK is a federally-supported program to develop teachers of “critical languages.” This site is mainly directed to teachers of Hindi, Arabic, and Chinese but the STARTALK Multimedia Teacher Workshop Collection can be used by all teachers. This 'workshop' area of the site includes twelve on-line, multimedia workshops developed by staff of STARTALK. The workshops cover a wide range of skills, knowledge, and techniques useful to any language teacher, such as:

- teaching heritage students
- standards-based teaching
- using the target language in class
- integrating language, culture and content

The STARTALK Classroom Video collection provides real-life examples of teachers working to incorporate STARTALK-endorsed effective practices in Arabic, Chinese, Hindi, Persian, Swahili, Turkish and Urdu classroom settings.

- role playing to make students the center of the learning experience
- make use of songs, videos, and other authentic materials in the target language
- culturally rich activities such as meals, fully integrate the target language and culture into the classroom.

Download a copy of the viewing guide associated with each video for detailed information about each lesson. Click here to access [STARTalk videos](#).

Livemocha

Livemocha is an online language learning community which offers free and paid online language courses in 35 languages. To set up an account, you will need to provide: your native language, the language you wish to learn, your email address and a password.

Click here to access [Livemocha](#).

Bingo Board Creator

In this website, you can choose from thousands of images to create a 3 x 3 or 4 x 4 bingo game board. Vocabulary sets include animals, body parts, chores, family, food, numbers, shapes, transportation, draw in their own pictures in the blank squares.

Click here to access the [Bingo Board Creator](#).

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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