

Course Title: Building Language Skills with Multilingual Learners	
Number of Content Modules: 5	Grade Levels: K-12
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Course Description

Learn how to expand students' language, vocabulary, and content knowledge as they encounter new concepts, skills, and technologies in the classroom. Whether students are native English speakers, multilingual learners in English-only programs, or educators in bilingual and biliteracy programs, the course recognizes the necessity of developing academic language skills to meet rigorous educational standards.

The core focus of this course is the SWiRLing approach: Speaking, Writing, Interacting, Reading, and Listening. Educators learn how to explicitly integrate these language modalities into their daily instructional practices to enhance the quantity, quality, and rigor of academic language. By embracing SWiRLing, teachers create an environment where students actively engage in language-rich activities, strengthening their language skills while deepening their understanding of academic content.

Course Objectives

CO. 1: Analyze and address societal, institutional, and personal barriers to advancing language with multilingual learners in the classroom. [Danielson 1b, 1c, 2a, 2b, 4a]

CO. 2: Integrate Speaking, Writing, interacting, Reading, and Listening (SWiRLing) across the curriculum for multilingual learners. [Danielson 1e, 2c, 3b, 3c]

CO. 3: Honor, validate, and affirm student languages and registers, and build and bridge to academic language. [Danielson 1b, 1c, 1d, 2a, 2b, 3a, 3c]

CO.4: Accurately explain and communicate the importance of SWiRLing to students and its relationship to increased opportunities for college, career, and life readiness. [Danielson 1b, 2b, 3a]

CO.5: Analyze current practices and incorporate new SWiRLing strategies into instruction. [Danielson 1c, 1d, 1e, 4a]

CO.6: Assess SWiRLing in the content areas. [Danielson 1e, 2c, 3b, 3c]

CO.7: Reflect in brave learning spaces to a) examine perspectives and experiences of marginalized groups, b) surface and interrogate personal and institutional assumptions, beliefs, and practices that contribute to inequity, and c) reflect on the complex ways identity and culture shape teaching and learning. [Danielson 1b, 2a, 2b, 4a, 4e]

Course Outline

Course Introduction Module

Course available completely online
(24/7 and Self-Paced)

Assignments due by the end of the term.

Module Topics

In this module, you will learn about the course set-up, expectations for learning and collaborating, meet your colleagues, and reflect on your prior knowledge about teaching with artificial intelligence.

- Course Navigation & Methodology
- Course Description
- A Transformative Approach to Education
- Expectations and Community Agreements for Engaging in Brave Dialogue
- Community Building Circle: Course Story
- Course Objectives

Module 1: The Importance of Language: Honoring Students' Languages and Teaching Speaking, Writing, Interacting, Reading, and Listening

Module Topics

Educators will define language commonly used to describe the population of students this course centers: Multilingual learners. Participants will explore language as a key aspect of identity, and devise ways to validate and affirm student's linguistic assets. Through an analysis of today's rigorous standards and expectations, participants will explore how to provide effective instruction to multilingual learners through SWiRLing – speaking, writing, interacting, reading, and listening.

Section 1: How Language Shapes and Reflects Perspectives

- Reflect on It! Terms and Definitions [15 min]
- Learn About It! Multilingual Learner Populations [30 min]
- Reflect on It! Multilingual Learners in Our Schools [15 min]
- Learn About It! Language Proficiency Levels [30 min]
- Learn About It! Language Register [30 min]

Section 2: Language as Identity

- Learn About It! The Language of Our Identities [30 min]
- Learn About It! Racial Bias in Education [30 min]
- Learn About It! Gender Identity [30 min]
- Learn About It! Other Aspects of Our Identities [30 min]
- Practice It! Identity and Language [45 min]

Section 3: The Importance of Teaching Speaking, Writing, Interacting, Reading, and Listening with Multilingual Learners

- Learn About It! Defining SWiRLing [15 min]
- Learn About It! The Power of Literacy: Read, Write, Think, Discuss – Disciplinary Literacy [15 min]
- Learn About It! SWiRLing and the NY Next Generation Learning Standards [15 min]
- Learn About It! SWiRLing and English Language Development [15 min]
- Practice It! ELD Standards Analysis [15 min]
- Learn About It! SWiRLing and the Danielson Framework [15 min]
- Reflect on It! Danielson Framework Implementation [15 min]

Section 4: The Myth and Reality of SWiRLing

- Learn About It! Language as Expression of Meaning [15 min]
- Learn About It! Teaching Academic Language Through SWiRLing [15 min]
- Practice It! Unit Plan [60 min]

Module 2: SWiRLing in the Classroom

Module Topics

In this module, educators will delve into establishing a classroom community that is conducive to advancing language with multilingual learners and all students. Key topics such as cultural values and norms, culturally responsive teaching and learning, use of students' native or home languages, determining the linguistic demand of lessons, and other topics will be explored in depth.

Section 1: Setting the Stage for SWiRLing

- Learn About It! The Classroom Community [15 min]
- Learn About It! Cultural Differences and Norms [15 min]
- Reflect On It! Reflecting on Our Culture of Communication [15 min]
- Learn About It! Culturally Responsive Teaching [15 min]
- Learn About It! How Can a Culturally Responsive Teacher Approach These Mismatches in Communication? [15 min]
- Learn About It! The Intrinsic Motivational Framework [15 min]
- Practice It! Building Intrinsic Motivation [45 min]
- Learn About It! A Scenario [15 min]
- Learn About It! Leveraging Home Language
- Reflect On It! Language Use in Your Classroom [15 min]
- Practice It! Planning for Language Use in the Classroom [30 min]

Section 2: Designing SWiRLing Lessons

- Learn About It! Receptive and Productive Language [10 min]
- Practice It! Productive and Receptive Vocabulary [10 min]

- Learn About It! Determining the Linguistic Demand of Tasks [10 min]
- Learn About It! Defining Linguistic Demand [10 min]
- Learn About It! Language Functions and Forms [10 min]
- Learn About It! Deconstructing Linguistic Demand [10 min]
- Practice It! Analyzing the Linguistic Demand of a Lesson [15 min]
- Learn About It! Building Communication Objectives Based on the Needs of Your Students [10 min]
- Learn About It! Watch: Content and Communication Objectives [10 min]
- Practice It! Write Content and Communication Objectives [10 min]
- Learn About It! Posting and Sharing Objectives with Students [15 min]
- Learn About It! Grouping Students: Heterogeneous, Homogenous, and Random Grouping Structures [15 min]
- Practice It! Grouping Configurations [15 min]
- Learn About It! Print-Rich and Language Functional Environments: Facilitating Academic Language Use in the Classroom [15 min]
- Reflect On It! Examples of Print-Rich Environments [15 min]
- Master It! Preparing a Unit for SWiRLing Integration [120 min]

Module 3: Advancing Language Through Speaking, Listening, and Interacting

Module Topics

In this module, educators will be looking more closely at speaking, listening, and interacting, given the extremely close connection between these skills. While this does not exactly follow the SWiRLing acronym, it makes sense to dig into these skills together.

Section 1: Exploring the Need, the Research, and Practice

- Learn About It! Research on Teaching Speaking and Listening [10 min]
- Learn About It! Video: Opportunities to Process [10 min]
- Reflect On It! Discussion Opportunities in a Lesson Plan [10 min]
- Learn About It! Students Interaction Opportunities [10 min]
- Learn About It! Encouraging Academic Conversations with Talk Moves [10 min]
- Practice It! Using Sentence Frames [60 min]

Section 2: Strategies for Integrating Speaking, Listening, and Interaction

- Learn About It! Discussion Opportunities [30 min]
- Practice It! Choosing Discussion Opportunities for a Lesson Plan [20 min]
- Learn About It! Student-to-Student Interaction Strategies [10 min]
- Reflect On It! Strategies to Integrate [10 min]
- Learn About It! Tightening Up Turn and Talk [10 min]

Section 3: Effective Questioning Techniques

- Learn About It! Questioning Students to Promote Speaking, Listening, and Interaction [10 min]
- Learn About It! Asking the Right Questions [10 min]
- Learn About It! Setting Expectations [10 min]
- Reflecting On It! Questioning in Your Classroom [10 min]
- Practice It! Creating Powerful Prompts [20 min]

Section 4: Vocabulary, Speaking, Listening, and Interaction

- *Learn* About It! General Academic and Domain Specific Vocabulary [10 min]
- Learn About It! Explicit Vocabulary Instructional Routine [10 min]
- Learn About It! Vocabulary Instruction Videos [10 min]
- Reflect On It! Your Vocabulary Instruction [10 min]
- Practice It! Incorporating the Explicit Vocabulary Instructional Routine into Instruction [40 min]

Section 5: Pronunciation

- Learn About It! Accent Bias, Social Identity and Ethnocentrism [60 min]
- Reflect on It! Pronunciation and Accent Bias [30 min]
- Learn About It! Pronunciation and Accent in the Classroom [45 min]
- Learn About *It!* Enhancing Linguistic Choral Responses with Multilingual Learners [45 min]

Section 6: Listening

- Learn About It! Reading Aloud [30 min]
- Learn About It! Listen and Sketch [30 min]
- Learn About It! Listening Strategies [30 min]
- Master It! Lesson Planning [120 min]

Module 4: Advancing Language Through Writing

Module Topics

Writing is an essential life skill; people use writing on a daily basis in their personal and professional lives to share ideas, communicate with family and friends, accomplish tasks, and more. For multilingual learners, developing writing skills in a new language can be a challenge. There are multiple aspects to consider in terms of writing instruction and opportunities, including the amount of writing that student do throughout the day and how to scaffold writing instruction. In this module, we will delve into this critical aspect of advancing language and SWiRLing.

Section 1: Writing Research

- Learn About It! “Teaching Academic Content and Literacy to English Learners in Elementary and Middle School” [10 min]
- Learn About It! Decoding and Encoding [10 min]
- Reflect *On It!* Writing in Your Classroom [10 min]

Section 2: Integrating Throughout the Day

- Reflect on It! Standard Written English: A Tool of Oppression? [15min]
- Learn About It! Quick-Writes [10 min]
- Practice It! Quick-Write Prompts [10 min]
- Learn About It! Other Activities to Easily Integrate Writing [10 min]
- Learn About It! Before, During, or After Instruction [15 min]
- Learn About It! Focused Writing Stations [20 min]
- Learn About It! Student Reflection Through Writing [20 min]
- Practice It! Choosing Specific Writing Activities for Your Lesson(s) [20 min]

Section 3: Deepening Writing Instruction with Multilingual Learners

- Learn About It! Teaching Writing to Multilingual Learners [10 min]
- Learn About It! Focusing on Sentence Building [15 min]
- Learn About It! Sentence Frames, Sentence Starters, and Signal Words [15 min]
- Practice It! Teaching Writing at the Sentence Level [15 min]
- Learn About It! Focusing on the Paragraph Level [15 min]
- Learn About It! Potential Roadblocks [15 min]
- Learn About It! Scaffolding with Graphic Organizers [15 min]
- Practice It! Choosing Graphic Organizers [20 min]
- Learn About It! Linking Speaking, Listening, and Interaction to Writing [30 min]
- Reflect on It! Peer Feedback [30 min]

Section 4: Assessing Writing and Providing Feedback

- Learn About It! Research-Based Recommendations on Assessment and Feedback [15 min]
- Learn About It! Frequency, Focus, and Feedback [15 min]
- Practice It! Providing Focus in Writing [60 min]

Module 5: Advancing Language Through Reading

Module Topics

Reading is a critical skill: one of the most important that students learn in school. While learning to speak is a natural part of human development, reading is not; it must be taught explicitly. Learning to read in a new language provides additional challenges. In this module we will explore how to teach reading to multilingual learners.

Section 1: Reading Research

- Learn About It! Why Reading Matters [30 min]
- Learn About It! The Reading Brain [30 min]

- Learn About It! The Components of Reading Instruction [30 min]
- Learn About It! Using the BIOME Acronym to Build Literacy Skills with Multilingual Learners [30 min]
- Practice It! Integration of the BIOME Acronym [20 min]
- Learn About It! The Role of Background Knowledge [20 min]
- Reflect On It! Linking Students’ Background Knowledge and Prior Experience [20min]
- Learn about It! Multilingual Learners with Dyslexia [30min]

Section 2: Building Strong Readers

- Learn About It! Active Reading Strategies for Multilingual Learners [30 min]

Section 3: Choosing Books and Materials for Students to Practice Reading

- Learn About It! Motivating Students to Read [15 min]
- Learn About It! Wordless Books [15 min]
- Learn About It! Representation and Bias in Children’s Books [15 min]
- Reflect On It! Culturally Authentic Texts [15 min]

Section 4: Reading Comprehension

- Learn About It! Reading Comprehension [10 min]
- Learn About It! Using Graphic Organizers to Enhance Reading [10 min]
- Learn About It! Graphic Organizers and Implications for Universal Design for Learning [10 min]
- Practice It! Graphic Organizers for Reading [30 min]
- Master It! Final Unit or Lesson Plan [60 min]

Course Wrap-Up Module

Module Topics

In the Course Wrap-Up Module, you will reflect on your self-efficacy for mastering the course objectives.

Section 1: Summative Course Reflection

- Master It! Summative Course Reflection [30min]
- Reflect on It! Course Evaluation and Feedback [30min]
- Learn about It! Course Reference List