

# POLL ENVIRONMENTAL SUPPORTS



Environmental Supports set the stage for active and engaged learning for children. Learning environments are welcoming, inclusive, and thoughtfully organized and designed to promote learning in ALL languages. For dual and multilingual learners, it is especially important to display environmental print, materials, and resources in their home languages and reflect the environments they recognize. Whether you serve children in a home, community, or center-based setting, the following POLL Environmental Supports can be helpful when creating a learning environment that is culturally sensitive and responsive, honors children and family's languages, and facilitates children's language learning experiences.

## POLL STRATEGY:

Environmental Supports honor and reflect children and family's cultures, languages, and preferences.

## ENVIRONMENTAL SUPPORTS...

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- Value and support home languages and cultures.
- Provide visual information in children's home languages.
- Engage the interests of the child.
  - » **Print:** Environmental print (words, pictures, symbols) are visible in each home language throughout the learning environment (messages, communication boards, schedules, labeled areas and items)
  - » **Materials:** Books, objects, and materials authentically represent children's cultures and help all children make sense of their experiences (family, community, cultural photos and displays, multi-age materials for individual and cross-age exploration)
  - » **Areas:** Indoor and outdoor areas include meaningful opportunities to share and learn about cultures, interests, and preferences. Your interest areas and meal times are opportunities to reflect the families and cultures of the children you work with.

## CONSIDERATIONS AS YOU DESIGN ENVIRONMENTAL SUPPORTS FOR YOUR MULTILINGUAL LEARNERS

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### Print

- Written messages are displayed in children’s home languages and English.
- Interest areas and materials are labeled in home languages and English.
- Parent communication boards are displayed in home languages and English.

### Materials

- Books in children’s home languages are accessible on a variety of topics and interests.
- Materials and photos represent children’s cultures, languages, and interests.

### Areas

- Spaces for children to interact and use language are safe, available, and appealing.
- Children have opportunities to find, select, explore, experience, and engage.

## RESOURCES:

To learn more about Environmental Supports, see the Environmental Supports section at <https://www.pollstrategies.org>