

Things to Tell Bilingual Parents When They Ask:
"What should I do at home to help my child with English?"

- Go over all the homework topics in the first language at home in the evenings. Students should be making links between what they already know in Korean or Spanish (any language) and what is happening in class.
- Encourage the use of primary language - (don't have parents try to use English at home.)
- Visit the library and check out as many books on tape as kids will listen to. Repeated listening while watching the words on the page will really improve ability to read early, develop good fluency, and fluent pronunciation.
- Get cds or tapes of English music for young children - I always suggest Raffi as the lyrics are very clear and "singable"
- Practice counting out loud in both languages several times a day
- As children start to read have them read many short and easy books - as comprehension is usually an issue for bilingual readers. Encourage picture books for as long as children are willing to read them.