



# **Good Start, Grow Smart**

**Supporting Positive  
Language and Literacy Development in  
Young Language Minority Children:  
Research, Policy and Practice Roundtable**

**April 2008  
Washington, DC**



# Statistics

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- ❖ **ELLs represent more than 5 million students in K-12 public schools, with over 2 million of that population in pre-kindergarten to grade 3. Within this group, approximately 460 languages are represented with Spanish accounting for 80 percent of the non-English languages.**
- ❖ **An estimated one in every five students who enters school in the U.S. speaks a home language other than English.**
- ❖ **In 2006, nearly 30 percent of Head Start and Early Head Start children came from families who speak a language other than English, and 86 percent of Head Start programs serve multiple children who speak languages other than English**

# Early Childhood Education- English Language

## Learners (ELL) Federal Interagency Workgroup

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### *US Department of Health and Human Services*

Office of Head Start, Child Care Bureau, Assistant Secretary of Planning and Evaluation, National Institute for Child Health and Human Development, Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation at the Administration for Children and Families.



### *US Department of Education*

Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, Office of English Language Acquisition, Office of Special Education Programs, Institute for Education Sciences, White House Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans Office



### *National Institute for Literacy*

# Mission Statement

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- ✦ **Federal agencies, including as their focus, children ages birth to 5, will collaborate and coordinate to provide high quality research-based information to enhance early care and education to prepare English Language Learners (ELL) to enter school ready to succeed when transitioning to the K-12 system.**



# Goal 1

Analyze current status of federal programs serving ELL children, (ages birth to 5), educators and families, to assist in providing coordinated high quality program services across federal agencies.

\* **Program Analysis**

# Process



The Workgroup is collecting program information and analyzing the following:

- ✦ Mission/Purpose
- ✦ Target population, age group
- ✦ Structure and funding mechanism
- ✦ Funding Levels
- ✦ # Projects/Programs (where applicable)
- ✦ # of Children Served

# Process (Continued)

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- ✦ # of ELL Children Served
- ✦ Definition of LEP/ELL
- ✦ Guidance to grantees on English Language Development
- ✦ Guidelines/standards for serving ELLs
- ✦ Reporting Requirements for ELLs
- ✦ TA to grantees on serving ELLs
- ✦ Performance Measures



## **Goal 2**

Analyze the current status of federal efforts in research on ELL children, ages birth to 5, to inform coordinated interagency research agendas.

- \* **Language Minority Roundtable**
- \* **ELL Literature Search**





## **Goal 3**

Engage in partnerships to support children, families, programs and communities of ELL children, ages birth to 5.



## **Goal 3-**Engage in partnerships to support children, families, programs and communities of ELL children, ages birth to 5.

- A. Create early childhood education ELL publications and outreach opportunities for educators and parents.
- B. Create a plan to work with Institutes of Higher Education and/or other ECE certification/training entities to engage in dialogue on how to effectively prepare practitioners to meet the needs of young LEP/ELL children.
- C. Create a plan for an emerging cohort of scientists who are trained and qualified to contribute to the field of education science, in the area of early childhood ELLs, by conducting rigorous evaluations, developing new products and approaches grounded in science, and designing valid tests and measures.
- D. Create a plan for private/public partnerships to provide LEP/ELL children and families increased opportunity and access to high quality, culturally and linguistically relevant books and literacy-related materials.



# Presenters

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