

The Barclay Early Childhood Center  
World Languages  
Preschool Standards and Benchmarks

The diverse nature of our society necessitates that children develop an understanding of languages other than their own. In preschool, when children are still mastering their native language, this can involve simply exposing children to languages other than their own. Teachers can integrate words from languages other than English into the classroom through songs, daily routines and storybooks. Labels written in a language other than English can be used to identify items within the classroom. Parents and community members who speak a language other than English can be a valuable resource in helping children both understand and respect the linguistic diversity present in our culture, and should be invited to share their language with the children.

Special consideration needs to be given to children who already possess a second language. Materials should be available that represent and support the native language and culture of the children and adults in the class. Teachers should understand that all languages are learned in context as children interact with and explore their world. Teachers should plan for opportunities to extend children's language throughout the day and across all content areas.

Summary of Standard and Benchmarks

**Standard 2**

**The student demonstrates an awareness of different languages.**

**Benchmark 2.1** Children know that others may use different languages (including sign) to communicate and will express simple greetings, words and phrases in a language other than their own.

<b>Developmental Continuum</b>	<b>Example Behaviors</b>
Responds appropriately to commands or instructions given in a language other than English.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Acknowledges that a language other than his/her own is being spoken.</li></ul>
Says simple greetings, words and phrases in a language other than his/her own.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Counts in Spanish, sings songs or poems in sign language, says “hello” in French, uses sign language to give directions to children</li></ul>