



## **Spanish Dual Language Preschool Program at the Y** *Frequently Asked Questions*

- **What is the primary objective of the Spanish Dual Language Program at the Y for Preschool children?**  
The Dual Language Program incorporates an emergent developmentally appropriate curriculum within which children develop their first language and learn a second language through hands-on experiences and an infusion of music, art and dance from a variety of cultures.
- **What are the program's goals?**  
The principle goals of the program are:
  1. Students will develop proficiency in the first and second languages.
  2. Students will gain proficiency within the five key areas of learning and development within the New York State Prekindergarten Foundation for the Common Core.
  3. Students will demonstrate positive cross-cultural attitudes and behaviors.
- **How will the dual language program be implemented?**  
Children will participate in a 50/50 dual language model in which students will learn in each language about half the time throughout the school day from 9:00 to 3:30 pm. At the Y, we will be teaching and learning together in Spanish in the mornings and in English in the afternoons.
- **Which children are eligible to participate in the Spanish Dual Language Program at the Y in 2015-16?**  
The program is open to four year olds born in 2011 who are enrolled for the full-day or extended day programs.
- **Who will be teaching the class?**  
The class will be taught by a bilingual teacher who has a New York State Early Childhood license with a bilingual education extension, along with a qualified bilingual associate teacher.
- **How many Dual-Language classes will the Y have?**  
In the first year of implementation in 2015-16, the Y will have one Spanish dual-language four year old preschool class with 18 children and two teachers.
- **Does my child have to have prior knowledge of the Spanish language?**  
Your child does not need to have prior knowledge of the Spanish language in order to enroll in the Dual Language preschool program at the Y.

- **What if my child does not understand the teachers at the beginning of the school year during the second language portion of the day?**

A variety of strategies will be utilized to help children gain language from September through June depending upon the amount of support that is needed. The use of visuals, hand gestures, pantomime, role-playing, music and creative movement are among the methodologies that will help in language acquisition. When needed, teachers will use a child's native language so that he or she feels comfortable in the classroom.

- **What does it mean if my child does not show improvement in second language acquisition at home?**

As with any new learning experience, children's progress varies and is dependent upon many factors. While some students may come home and enthusiastically share new words, songs and ideas, others may only speak the second language in the classroom and their native language for all other settings. Even if a child does not use the second language at home (a common occurrence when children are learning a new language), regular exposure to sounds, concepts and vocabulary will allow the child to learn the language more easily should he or she choose to continue when older. Teachers will schedule conferences to discuss their children's progress as well as maintain portfolios of their students' work to assess areas of strength and improvement.

Please contact the early childhood office for further information at 646-738-6090.

