

A Foreword from the Co-Director of the Center for Child and Family Studies, WestEd

California's preschool population includes large numbers of culturally and linguistically diverse children. In its 2008 California Report Card, Children Now estimates that 42 percent of five-year-old children in California are English learners, a three percent increase from the previous year. Thus, a fundamental concern in preparing preschool teachers is building their capacity to be responsive to the diverse competencies, experiences, and interests each child brings to the classroom.

The Faculty Initiative Project's Instructional Guide for the California Department of Education's publication *Preschool English Learners: Principles and Practices to Promote Language, Literacy, and Learning* has been developed to respond to requests from higher education faculty for resources that focus on supporting young children's English language development. Created by a team of college faculty and WestEd, this instructional guide is designed to support the integration of content from the preschool English learners publication into early education coursework. We hope that it will contribute to critically important efforts to prepare early childhood educators for fostering the learning of all of California's young children.

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