Cambridge Elements

Elements in Language Teaching
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TEACHING YOUNG MULTILINGUAL LEARNERS

Key Issues and New Insights

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Teaching Young Multilingual Learners

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DOI: 10.1017/9781108934138
First published online: January 2023

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Abstract: This Element provides an overview of research focusing on language teaching practices for young multilingual learners in primary classrooms in English-speaking contexts. The term "young multilingual learner" refers to primary school children, with ages ranging from approximately five to twelve years old at various English language proficiency levels. Pedagogy-informed research studies conducted in K-5 classrooms are used to develop research-informed pedagogies for young multilingual learners in primary classrooms. The authors use the notion of culturally sustaining teaching practices to provide examples from pedagogy-informed research studies. The focus on early (K-3) and intermediate (4–5) grades provides a range of illustrations of such practices. The Element concludes with implications for teacher education and the preparation of teachers of young multilingual learners.

Keywords: young multilingual learners, bilingual students, culturally sustaining pedagogies, primary classrooms, English learners

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ISBNs: 9781108928809 (PB), 9781108934138 (OC)
ISSNs: 2632-4415 (online), 2632-4407 (print)
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