

# Art as a Way of Talking for Emergent Bilingual Youth

Art can be a powerful tool for emergent bilingual youth to express themselves, learn about their culture, and connect with others. This article explores how art can be used to support the development of emergent bilingual youth and provides examples of how art has been used in educational settings to promote language and literacy development.



## Art as a Way of Talking for Emergent Bilingual Youth: A Foundation for Literacy in PreK-12 Schools by Laura Esquivel

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

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## What is Art?

Art is a form of expression that can take many different forms, including painting, drawing, sculpture, music, dance, and drama. Art can be used to communicate ideas, emotions, and experiences. It can also be used to tell stories, preserve history, and explore different cultures.

## How Can Art Benefit Emergent Bilingual Youth?

Art can benefit emergent bilingual youth in many ways. It can help them to:

- Express themselves
- Learn about their culture
- Connect with others
- Develop their language and literacy skills
- Increase their self-esteem
- Cope with stress and trauma

### **How Can Art Be Used to Support the Development of Emergent Bilingual Youth?**

There are many ways that art can be used to support the development of emergent bilingual youth. Some of the most common ways include:

- **Art as a way of expressing emotions.** Art can provide a safe and supportive space for emergent bilingual youth to express their emotions. They can use art to explore their feelings about their new language, their new culture, and their new life in the United States.
- **Art as a way of learning about culture.** Art can be a powerful tool for emergent bilingual youth to learn about their culture. Through art, they can explore the traditions, values, and beliefs of their culture. They can also learn about the history of their culture and the experiences of other people who have immigrated to the United States.
- **Art as a way of connecting with others.** Art can help emergent bilingual youth to connect with others who share their experiences. Through art, they can build relationships with other young people who

are also learning English and who are also trying to adjust to life in the United States.

- **Art as a way of developing language and literacy skills.** Art can be used to support the development of emergent bilingual youth's language and literacy skills. They can use art to learn new words, explore different writing styles, and develop their reading comprehension skills.
- **Art as a way of increasing self-esteem.** Art can help emergent bilingual youth to increase their self-esteem. Through art, they can explore their strengths and talents. They can also learn to appreciate their own culture and their own unique experiences.
- **Art as a way of coping with stress and trauma.** Art can be a powerful tool for emergent bilingual youth to cope with stress and trauma. They can use art to express their feelings, explore their experiences, and find healing.

## **Examples of How Art Has Been Used to Support the Development of Emergent Bilingual Youth**

There are many examples of how art has been used to support the development of emergent bilingual youth. Some of the most common examples include:

- **The "Speaking Walls" project.** The "Speaking Walls" project was a community-based art project that used art to help emergent bilingual youth share their stories about their experiences with immigration and resettlement in the United States. The project involved youth from different countries and backgrounds, and the art that they created was exhibited in public spaces.

- **The "New Roots" program.** The "New Roots" program is a school-based art program that uses art to help emergent bilingual youth learn about their culture and develop their language and literacy skills. The program is offered in schools in New York City, and it has been shown to be effective in improving students' academic achievement.
- **The "Voices of Youth" program.** The "Voices of Youth" program is a national program that uses art to help emergent bilingual youth express their experiences and perspectives on issues that affect them. The program is offered in schools and community centers across the United States, and it has been shown to be effective in helping youth to develop their leadership skills and to become more involved in their communities.

Art can be a powerful tool for emergent bilingual youth to express themselves, learn about their culture, and connect with others. It can also be used to support their development of language and literacy skills, increase their self-esteem, and cope with stress and trauma. There are many different ways that art can be used to support the development of emergent bilingual youth, and the examples provided in this article are just a few of the many ways that art can be used to make a difference in the lives of these young people.



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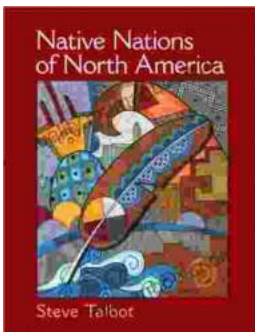
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