

# Promoting additive bilingualism: The role of mother-tongue literacy



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“One Saturday afternoon...

... as I was telling stories with a little girl on my lap, she whispered in my ear: ‘Speak the other way, please, speak the other way.’ I realized that she was asking me to speak in Spanish, and I was surprised by her request. ‘Why do you want me to speak in Spanish if you don’t understand it?’ I asked.



[...] And then, with a feeling in her voice that moves me to this day, she said: 'I don't understand it, but *that's the way my mother used to sound*' (Ada, 2000, p. 340).



# Why additive bilingualism and biliteracy?

- ◆ Psychological Factors
- ◆ Pedagogical Reasons
- ◆ Social Reasons
- ◆ Reasons of Justice



# Strategies for promoting native language literacy

- ◆ Children as authors
  - Questionnaires
  - Tape-recorded interviews
  - Storytelling



# Children as authors


## ◆ Topics

- The family immigration experience
- The family present life experiences
- The parents' or relatives' childhood memories
- Important moments in the parents' lives
- Names in the family



# Dichos or proverbs

- ◆ Dichos are *a lazo de unión con el pasado, el mundo de tradiciones* (Contreras, 1995).
- ◆ Dichos are a link with the past, the world of tradition



# Using dichos in instruction (Sánchez, 2001)

- ◆ Paraphrase
- ◆ Negotiate meaning
- ◆ Find another way to say it
- ◆ Script writing
- ◆ Dicho matching
- ◆ Dichos in my life
- ◆ Equivalents in English



# Hispanic oral tradition: Other resources

- ◆ Adivinanzas/Riddles
- ◆ Rondas/Circle games
- ◆ Leyendas/Legends
- ◆ Fábulas/Fables
- ◆ Corridos/Popular Mexican ballads

# On-line resources

- ◆ Comision Nacional de Libros de Texto Gratuitos (Mexico)

<http://www.iea.gob.mx/html/proyectos/LIBTEXTO2.html>





## ...on-line resources (cont'd)

- ◆ Barahona Center for the Study of Books in Spanish for Children and Adolescents

<http://www.csusm.edu/csb/>



# References

- Ada, A. F. (2000). Mother tongue literacy as a bridge between home and school cultures. In J. V. Tinajero and R. A. DeVillar (Eds.) The power of two languages. (pp. 339-345). New York: McGraw Hill.
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