

Our Core Beliefs

NNELL believes that all elementary school students should have access to high-quality, ongoing, and articulated world language instruction. This belief is based on the research that indicates:

- The period of early childhood is an optimal time to begin the study of a second language, as the methods and materials used in early childhood classes are multi-modal and may help to facilitate second language acquisition and learning (Bialystok, & Hakuta, 1994).
- Children in effective early second language programs show overall gains on standardized tests of basic skills and derive additional cognitive, social, and affective benefits. (Taylor-Ward, 2003).
- Early second language learning may result in improved phonological and phonemic awareness, two building blocks of literacy in one's native language. (Bialystok, 2001).
- The integration of content and language learning and the development of positive attitudes towards people who speak other languages occur more easily when long, articulated sequences of second language instruction begin in early childhood and become an integral part of school learning. (Shrum & Glisan, 2005).



Our Mission

The mission of NNELL is to foster a network that empowers educators to advocate for and support early language teaching and learning.

Our Vision

Our vision is for every child to have the opportunity to learn another language.



What People Say about NNELL

"NNELL feels like home to me. When I was just starting out as a language educator, I met Dr. Mari Haas, who was one of the founding mothers of NNELL. She encouraged me to join and got me involved in a variety of different capacities - first just coming to meetings and participating in the Swap Shop Breakfasts every year at ACTFL, then in a leadership capacity as Secretary, then as VP, then finally as President. Through my years as a NNELL member, I have been inspired, challenged, informed, and nurtured as a professional and as a person. I admire my NNELL colleagues as professionals and adore them as people. I can't imagine our profession without the National Network for Early Language Learning - and I am proud to call myself a NNELLie!"
- **Dr. Lori Langer de Ramirez**

"Collaboration, education, networking and friendships — NNELL is a professional association at its best, and it provides valuable benefits to all its members. NNELL has been part of my life throughout my career in world language education - as a Prek-2nd classroom teacher, curriculum leader, and teacher-trainer. In each and every one of these roles, I have appreciated the generous sharing of good practice and expertise from NNELL's professional community."
- **Marcela Summerville**

"My first teaching job was in a small school district in Montana, and I was given the opportunity to teach elementary Spanish in order to round out my full-time schedule as a high school/middle school Spanish and English teacher. I had no idea where to begin with young language learners and was relieved and grateful to discover NNELL and connect with relevant resources and knowledgeable professionals."
- **Lyndsay Marean**

Membership

Membership in NNELL is a professional investment that allows you to stay connected at the national level to support local efforts in your community.

By becoming a member of NNELL, or by renewing your previous membership, you gain access to professional publications, special website areas for Members Only and access to a network of professionals who believe in early language learning.

Membership Benefits

- Access to a network of hundreds of early language educators, parents, and decision-makers.
- Access to the members-only area of the NNELL website which provides announcements, workshop and webinar materials, advocacy resources and information for parents.
- Abstracts of current research and a collection of links to articles about early language learning and tips and tools.
- An invitation to attend NNELL's professional development workshops and webinars. Look for current workshop dates on the NNELL website.



Be in Touch!



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Since 1987, NNELL has provided leadership to advocate for and support successful early language learning and teaching.



NNELL

The National Network for Early Language Learning

Advocate. Collaborate. Educate.