



Immersion

Our dual language immersion program at Avenues offers a unique, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for students to learn academic subjects in both English and either Spanish or Mandarin Chinese. By teaching skills and concepts in two languages, we provide an academically rigorous and enriching educational experience that fosters a deep understanding of diverse perspectives and cultural empathy. At Avenues, language learning is beyond an academic pursuit; it is a daily practice that transforms the way students see and think about the world and themselves.

By the
Numbers
13.8%

of the world's population
is native Chinese speakers

6.9%

of the world's population
is native Spanish speakers

4.9%

of the world's population
is native English speakers

60%

or more of the world's
population speaks more than
one language

Immersion at Avenues

In Small World through kindergarten (ages 1-6) students benefit from learning in both English and either Spanish or Mandarin Chinese in our dual language immersion program. Our immersion model is 50/50 in a contained classroom. Each classroom has an English language teacher alongside a Chinese or Spanish language teacher. A third teacher, most typically bilingual, joins the class full-time in Small World 1s and 2s or for half of the nursery through kindergarten students' instruction. In the Lower Division, students continue to engage deeply in academic content in both English and their target language on alternate days. Students build fluency as they progress through—rather than repeat—academic material.

Benefits of Bilingualism

Studies have demonstrated benefits in the following areas:

COGNITIVE AND HEALTH

- Improved executive functioning
- Increased and sustained focus
- Switching attention from one topic to another
- Retaining information in mind
- Deeper cross-cultural understanding
- Improved self-esteem
- Enhanced professional competitiveness
- Empathetic thinking

MENTAL FLEXIBILITY

- Metalinguistic awareness (the ability to understand how language works)
- May help prevent or delay the onset of dementia and alzheimers later in life
- Increased adaptability and ability to see situations from different perspectives

ACADEMICS

- As good or better performance than monolingual peers on standardized measures of literacy and numeracy administered in students' first language



“Immersion programs are comprehensive; children aren't just learning words in two languages about the same thing. They are broadening their view of the world, sharing their thoughts, and connecting with diverse ideas and people.”

MELODY MEADE
HEAD OF EARLY
LEARNING CENTER

