

# Parents and Families Newsletter

## Summer 2024

All content will be trans-adapted for a Spanish version of the newsletter.  
Other languages are available through the S'more newsletter.

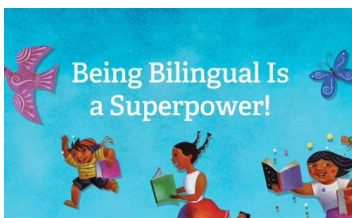
### Dear Parents and Families,

As we head into summer, this issue includes ideas on how to keep your child engaged in learning experiences that your entire family can enjoy. We take a look at understanding your child's test reports (STAAR and TELPAS), ways to support bilingualism, and tools to use to strengthen reading. For older children, we share ways to access digital library books, resume building tips, and free access to SAT preparation.

[Don't forget to fill out a quick survey to share any information or suggestions you might have for the next newsletter.](#)

We value your input!

**In this issue you will find more information on the following resources:**



**Being Bilingual**



**Reading the STAAR  
Report**



**Libby the Library App**

# Announcements



## State Assessment Data Available Soon

STAAR and TELPAS Report Cards will be arriving home soon. To learn more on how to understand your child's score, visit the [Texas Assessment Family Portal](#). You will need a six-digit access code that can be found on the report card. If you are unable to locate the access code, you can reach out to your child's school for the access code.



Click on the images below to access the portal for the different assessments.



[STAAR Link](#)



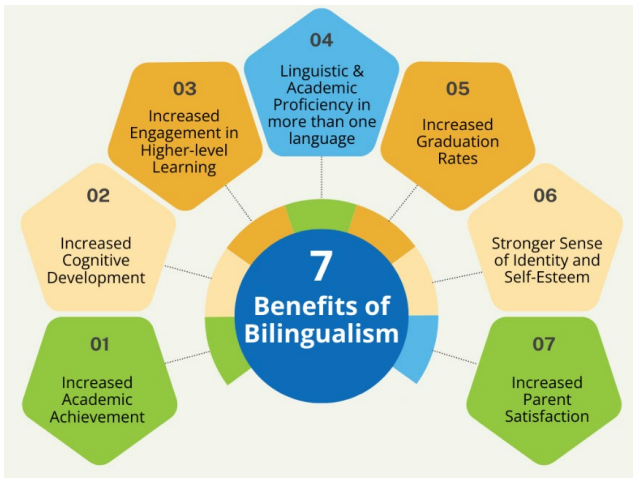
[TELPAS Link](#)

Save the Date: [2024 Parent and Family Engagement Conference - October 16-18](#)



This annual event features keynote speakers, breakout sessions, workshops, and networking opportunities that bring together parents, families, educators, and community members from across Texas to learn about and share best practices for engaging parents and families in their children's education.

# Benefits of Bilingualism



In the last issue, we outlined 7 benefits of being bilingual. We will look deeper into each of the benefits of bilingualism quarterly and share them with you in this section.

## Increased Academic Achievement

Emergent bilingual students switch between two different language systems which means that their brains are more active and flexible. This flexibility helps them to be more abstract thinkers which helps them to solve problems and develop strong critical thinking skills. Your child may be able to focus on key material better

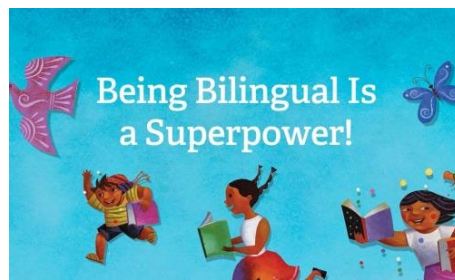
and remember important information because they are able to block out unnecessary information due to their biliteracy.

Increased academic achievement sets them up for long-term success as adults.

[An article by Workforce Essentials](#) found that people who speak more than one language earn 5% to 20% more on average than those who don't. Bilingual skills are in high demand and not many people have them, so employers offer higher salaries to attract and keep bilingual employees.

[Watch this video to learn about some simple ways you can help your child maintain and strengthen their bilingualism.](#)

***It is available in 8 languages!***



The activities shared in our **“At-Home Learning”** section, below, will help develop listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills. Check out [past newsletters](#) for different activities in this section as well.

# Resource Center

## At-Home Learning Sites For Students

The following educational websites are free resources that will help your child improve their English language skills.

Don't forget to visit [txel.org/SupportingChild](http://txel.org/SupportingChild) for more interactive educational websites.



### **Libby. The library reading app**

**Target Skills:** Reading

**Recommended Grade Levels:** K-12

**Check out library books online and read them on your device.**

With today's technology, reading books has never been more convenient. The Libby app allows you to sign in with your local library card and check out digital books for free.

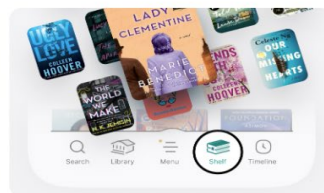
1 Download and open Libby on your device.



2 Find your library and sign in with your library card.



3 Browse or search to discover your next favorite book or audiobook.



4 Start reading & listening!



CollegeBoard



Khan Academy

### **SAT Prep**

**Target Skills:** Reading, Writing, Math

**Recommended Grade Levels:** 9-12

**Free test prep site to help your child increase their SAT scores**

Give your child a head start on the SAT by allowing them to look at practice questions, videos, lessons, and hints. Click on the Let's go button and select the section of the test that your child would like to practice. There are mini tutorials and then official practice questions your child can take to help them see what they should focus on next.

There is also a [section for parents](#) so you can learn more about what you can do to support your child with tips, timelines, and questions you can ask at home.

# At-Home Learning

There may be opportunities to support your child's learning at home. The following activities are some ideas you can try. For more resources, go to the [Supporting My Child page](#), then click on "Student Activities" on [TXEL.org](#).



## Word Play

One skill that benefits student reading and writing is learning to segment sounds. Play a game of [syllable clapping](#) with your child to help them separate words by syllable. Say a word and clap for each syllable. Repeat the word and have your child do the same. As you go through the day, have your child practice with words that come up in discussion

## Storytelling

Going on a road trip this summer or spending time with extended family is a great time to share stories. Sharing stories like these with your child can help with reading skills while also strengthening family history, culture and language. Tell your child a short story then have your child repeat the events in the story to you in the order that they happen. If your child has difficulty, repeat the story and talk about the order of events.



## Fun Summer Reads

Summer is a great time to read a fun book just for pleasure. When your child has a good experience with reading a book that they enjoy or makes them laugh, this not only helps them become better readers, it can also help set regular reading habits. Pick a book together with your child and read outside at the park or in the back yard in a tent. The laughs that you share together will foster great bonds between you both.

Read more at-home learning tips on the [Supporting my Child page](#) on the [TXEL.org website](#). Scroll down to the Education on Literacy at Home section and click on Scholastic. Find more tips under "Skill Builders."



## Post-secondary Readiness

### [Resume Builder](#)

A resume is needed when your child is applying for college, junior college, technical training, or the military.

If your child needs a resume but doesn't know where to start, visit the [Post-Secondary Readiness](#) in the Student Resources section of the TXEL.org website. Click on Resume Assistance to find resources on what to include in the resume and different formats available.

When building a resume, make sure to include major points such as work experience, skills, leadership positions, awards received, and volunteer experiences. Keep these tips in mind:

1. Keep your resume short
2. Use a resume template that fits your experience
3. Use [strong action verbs](#) to make it more dynamic
4. Highlight relevant skills by tailoring your resume to mirror the job description you are applying for
5. Create social media profiles for your academic/work experience and link them in your resume
6. Ask someone to edit your resume to find any and all mistakes

## Self-Care Tips

The last focus area addressed by "[Why Self-Care?](#)" is to stay connected. Parents and caregivers have little free time, so it is important to schedule time to connect with close friends and family. The article explains that, while there may be many people parents connect with during their busy days, connecting with close, trusting friends ensures the need for basic connections are met.

The emphasis is on honest, safe communication that requires no bells and whistles—a phone call, coffee visit, or even video chat can keep those connections strong. Modeling self-care for your child ensures that they will embrace healthy connections as well.



# Final Thoughts

## Summer

Encourage your child to find new ways and new things to learn this summer. A library book, a movie, and a family gathering all offer opportunities for stories to be shared and retold. During time spent together, parents can inspire learning by engaging in conversations. Take the time to share meaningful experiences with your child and listen to theirs as well.

[If you have any suggestions on topics you'd like to read about, please let us know by completing this short survey.](#)

## Previous Newsletters

All of our Newsletters can be found on the [Newsletters page](#) on the [TXEL.org](#) website. Click through the past editions to find additional information and resources designed for you and your child.



## Newsletters

Welcome to the Parents and Families Newsletter. The purpose of the newsletter is to provide information and resources that are relevant, accessible, and impactful to support parent, families, and community partners to ensure the academic success of the State's emergent bilingual students. **Remember that S'more translates to all languages through the translate button in the top right corner.**

**Featured Editions  
In English**

**Ediciones destacadas  
en español**

## Subscribe to the Site

Stay informed about the resources and support available by subscribing to [TXEL.org](https://www.txel.org).  
Click on the [Subscribe Today!](#)

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### Supporting Emergent Bilingual Students in Texas

[TXEL.org](https://www.txel.org) is a web portal that provides information and resources that are relevant, accessible, and impactful to support educational leaders, teachers, parents and families, and community partners to ensure the academic success of the State's emergent bilingual students.



Contact us at: <https://www.txel.org/contact/>

Email: [EmergentBilingualSupport@tea.texas.gov](mailto:EmergentBilingualSupport@tea.texas.gov)

Visit: [www.tea.texas.gov](http://www.tea.texas.gov)